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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ECO Transport Ministers Hold Meeting in Almaty *[Almaty Radio]* 1
Iranian Minister Speaks at Session *[Tehran Radio]* 1
Yeltsin Sends Greetings to UNESCO General Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Science Minister Gives Address *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Further Saltykov Remarks *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Minister Appeals to UN for Help With Social Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Plan To Protect Georgian Rail Links Drawn Up *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Russian Finance Minister Discusses Ruble Zone *[Radio Rossii]* 3
Problems of Single Zone Examined *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 Oct 4

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Foreign Ministry Official Gives Briefing 26 Oct 5
Moscow 'Satisfied' With U.S. Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Need for Joint Measures in Georgia Noted *[Moscow Radio]* 5
Iraq Urged To Cooperate With UN *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Burundi Coup Denounced *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Main Themes of Christopher Moscow Talks Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 5
Visit Shows Limits on Partnership *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Oct]* 6
Expanded Operations With U.S. in Space Discussed *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev Meets With UK's Major *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Discusses Yugoslavia *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Reaction to Ukrainian Position on Nuclear Weapons 8
Designer 'Worried' at State of Warheads *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 Oct]* 8
Impact of Christopher Visit Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 9
Further on Ukraine's Stance *[IZVESTIYA 27 Oct]* 9
Ethnic Ukrainians Form Own Association *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 Oct]* 10
Anti-Russian Stance of Armed Nationalist Grouping Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 Oct]* 10
Aspects of Ukraine Decision To Use Chernobyl Considered *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 Oct]* 11
'Expert' Says Moscow To Keep Using Chernobyl-Type Reactors *[Tokyo KYODO]* 12
Case Against Use of Troops in Georgia Argued *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Oct]* 13
Baltic Fleet Commander Reviews Regional Security *[YANTARNIY KRAY 15 Oct]* 14
Further on Dumping of Nuclear Waste in Sea of Japan 15
Navy Delegation Visits Pacific Fleet *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Japanese Delegation Visits Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Senior Officers Arrive in Far East *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Japan Reportedly Silent on Own Dumping 15
Seoul Urges Tripartite Study *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Dumping at Sea Defended *[Moscow TV]* 16
Dumping Seen as Plot To Damage Yeltsin *[IZVESTIYA 27 Oct]* 17
Maritime Kray Official States Concerns *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Japan Providing Sustained Assistance to Kurils *[Moscow Radio]* 17
Moscow Radio Comments on ROK-DPRK Talks *[Moscow International]* 18
Chinese General Arrives in Vladivostok for Border Talks *[INTERFAX]* 18
Iraqi Intelligence Head 'Clarified' Funding Opposition *[London AL-HAYAH 24 Oct]* 18
Report on Iraqi Aid Refuted *[SEGODNYA 26 Oct]* 19
Further on $7 Million Payment *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 Oct]* 19
Pacific Fleet Ships To Participate in Gulf Exercise *[INTERFAX]* 19

Russian Arms Sales in Gulf Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Oct]* 20
'Source' Claims Moscow Will Agree to Sanctions Against Libya *[IZVESTIYA 27 Oct]* 21

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

New Deputy Secretary of Security Council Appointed *[INTERFAX]* 22
Security Council Seeking To Expand Premises, Influence *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 26 Oct]* 22
Sobchak Comments on Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Filatov's Role in Constitutional Conference Assessed *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 23
Documents on Legislative Proposals Commission Published *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 Oct]* .. 25
Government Leaders' Activities, Edicts Reported *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Oct]* 26
Future of Constitutional Court Debated *[KURANTY 26 Oct]* 27
Konstantinov Charged for Role in Uprising *[INTERFAX]* 28
Prosecutor Expects To Complete Rutskoy Case *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 28
Official Gives Briefing on Criminal Gangs *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
FITUR To Hold Congress, Change Name *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 Oct]* 29

Election Issues

Shumeyko Opposes Early Presidential Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Rules for Federal Assembly Discussed *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Council To Monitor Media Access During Campaign *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Oct]* 30
Priorities, Image of 'Russia's Choice' Explained *[KURANTY 26 Oct]* 30
'Russia's Choice' Distances Itself From Shakhray's Party *[SEGODNYA 26 Oct]* 31
Split in Government During Campaign Assessed *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 32
Shakhray Aims To Head State Duma *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Yavlinskiy Announces Creation of New Bloc *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Volskiy Comments on Election Bloc *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
FRPP To Run as Part of Civic Union *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 34
Christian-Democratic Party Outlines Strategy *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
RPU To Take 'Active Part' in Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Possibility of Single Opposition Bloc Discounted *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Oct]* 35
Over 50 Parties Registered for Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Paper Previews Election Campaign *[SEGODNYA 26 Oct]* 37
Request for Foreign Observers Praised *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Oct]* 37
Muscovites Polled on Elections *[KURANTY 23 Oct]* 38

Economic Issues

First Experiment in Land Privatization Begins *[Russian TV]* 39
Agricultural Policy Council Meets, Discusses Reform *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Chernomyrdin Attends Council *[Russian TV]* 39
Agricultural Output Predicted To Decline *[INTERFAX]* 40
Political Motive Seen Behind Zaveryukha 'Publicity Stunt' *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 40
Yeltsin Signs Edict on Antimonopoly Committee *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Gaydar Discusses Antimonopoly Policies *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Finance Minister Predicts Drop in Inflation *[Radio Rossii]* 41
Government Plans To Close 42 Coal Mines *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Slowdown in Economic Decline Noted *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Oct]* 41

Media Issues

Poltoranin Accuses Government of Trying To Control Media *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Papers' Chief Editors React to Closures *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 Oct]* 43
Chernomyrdin Takes Over 'RTV Parliament' Center *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Military TV Chief Interviewed on Program Plans *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Oct]* 43
Fund for Protection of Correspondents Set Up *[ITAR-TASS]* 44

Military & Space Issues

Yeltsin Places Marshal Shaposhnikov Under His Command *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Defense Outlays Increased to 8.2 Percent of GNP *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 26 Oct]* 45
Pacific Fleet Allowed to Contract More Servicemen *[INTERFAX]* 45
Cosmos-2265 Rocket Launched From Plesetsk *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

Regional Affairs

Tatar Leader Urges Sovereignty Issue in Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 46
Tatar Group Opposes Federal Assembly Elections *[INTERFAX]* 46
Sakhalin Soviet Chairman Aksenov Receives New Post *[Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk TV]* 46
Government Approves Sakhalin Financial Aid Package *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Ingush Constitution To Be Adopted by Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Yakutia To Retain Next Year's Federal Tax *[INTERFAX]* 47
Tyumen Oblast, Okrugs Move to 'Rational Compromise' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Oct]* 48
Kabardin Assembly Repeals Decree on Russian Elections *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 Oct]* ... 48
Khakass, Novosibirsk Soviets Not To Disband *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Oct]* 48
Volga Republics Choose 'Own Way' To Reform *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Oct]* 49
Farmers Establish Two Agrarian Parties *[KALINIGNRADSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Oct]* 50

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Zlenko Comments on Nuclear Issue at News Conference *[Kiev International]* 51
Christopher, Zlenko Sign Nuclear Safety Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Official Clarifies Accord *[INTERFAX]* 51
Joint Nonproliferation Center Established *[Kiev Radio]* 51
Kiev Calls For Revision of Conventional Forces Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 52
Joint Space Project Under Way With Russia *[UNIAR]* 52
Kiev: New Russian Parliament Needed for Black Sea Accord *[UNIAN]* 52
Kiev Considers Extending Yugoslav Peacekeeping Mission *[UNIAN]* 52
Plyshch Discusses Reforms With IMF Experts *[Kiev Radio]* 52

National Affairs

Kravchuk's Comments on Internal Threat Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Oct]* 52
Ministry Urges Reevaluation of Chernobyl Safety *[KHRESHCHATYK 20 Oct]* 53
Reasons for Defense Minister's Replacement Pondered
[UKRAYINSKA HAZETA 21 Oct-3 Nov] 54
Adm Baltin Declines To Run for Presidency in Crimea *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Cabinet Studies Fuel, Economy, Education Reports *[Kiev International]* 56
Transcarpathian Leadership Waives Debate on Autonomy *[Kiev International]* 57

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

U.S Secretary of State Christopher Continues Visit 58
Meets Officials, Holds News Conference *[Minsk Radio]* 58
Briefs Shushkevich on NATO Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Further on Talks in Minsk *[Moscow TV]* 58
Further on News Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Vietnamese Foreign Minister Visits Minsk *[Minsk Radio]* 59
Order Issued on Military Service by Officer Corps *[Minsk Radio]* 59
Government Adopts Additional Privatization Measures *[Minsk Radio]* 59
Government Pledges To Curtail Inflation to 10% *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Komsomol Chief Discusses Goals, Activities *[VO SLAVU RODINY 20 Oct]* 60

Moldova

Parliament Authorizes Snegur To Sign CIS Accord *[Bucharest Radio]* 61
Snegur Promises Constitutional Protection for Dniester *[INTERFAX]* 61
Tiu's 'Demotion' to Envoy to U.S. Seen as 'Ploy' *[SEGODNYA 26 Oct]* 62

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Ends Visit 63
Visits Aktay *[Tehran TV]* 63
Signs Economic, Trade Agreements *[Tehran IRNA]* 63
Signs Products, Oil Agreement *[Tehran IRNA]* 63
Nazarbayev Comments at Airport *[ITAR-TASS]* 64

Tajikistan

CIS Commander Denies Afghan Villages Shelled *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Government To Toughen Measures To Disarm Militants *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Rakhmanov Sends Letter to UN Secretary General *[Dushanbe Radio]* 65
Niyazov Marks Turkmenistan's Independence Day *[Dushanbe Radio]* 65

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Yerevan Reports Azerbaijani Shelling of Borders *[Yerevan Radio]* 66
Karabakh-Azerbaijani Talks on Fighting Reported *[ARMENPRES]* 66
Karabakh Officials To Meet With CSCE Group in Yerevan *[SNARK]* 66

Azerbaijan

Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani Arrives in Baku *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Fighting Continues in Southwest Region *[INTERFAX]* 67
Azeri Refugees Fleeing Clashes Through Iran *[Moscow TV]* 67
Baku Seeks New Road Link With Nakhichevan *[Baku TV]* 67
Karabakh Official: Azerbaijanis Break Truce *[INTERFAX]* 68
Further Comments *[Moscow TV]* 68
Defense Ministry Reiterates Interest in Peace *[Baku TV]* 68
Aliyev Mentions Possible Appeal for Foreign Military Aid *[INTERFAX]* 69
Russian Envoy on CSCE Mediation Efforts *[ITAR-TASS]* 69
CSCE Official Calls For Cease-Fire, Peace *[Baku TV]* 69
Aliyev, CSCE Official Discuss Latest Situation *[Baku TV]* 69

Georgia

Government Claims State Forces Capture Senaki *[Tbilisi Radio]* 70
Details on Clashes Around Senaki *[Radio Rossii]* 70
Railway Operations Restored *[Tbilisi Radio]* 70
Samtredia Gradually Returning To Normal *[Tbilisi Radio]* 71
Damage Reported in Khoni After Zviadists Retreat *[Tbilisi TV]* 71
Abkhaz Commission To Assist Return of Refugees *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Shevardnadze Letter to Clinton on Russian Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Shevardnadze Appoints New Military, Press Center Chiefs *[Tbilisi Radio]* 71
Russian General on Resolving Illegal Arms Transfers *[SNARK]* 71
Russian Officer on Guarding Railway Lines *[Tbilisi Radio]* 72
Explosion Reported at Opposition Party's HQ *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 72
Security Minister Discusses Ministry's Plans *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 72

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Laar Protests BNS Report on Fatherland Meeting *[Tallinn Radio]* 73
Two Parliament Factions Elect New Leaders *[ETA NEWS RELEASE]* 73

ECO Transport Ministers Hold Meeting in Almaty

LD2610230893 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] A conference of the transport ministers of Kazakhstan, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey is being held in Almaty. Its purpose is to resume ties that had been disrupted and to invigorate them. Attending are the transport ministers of Azerbaijan and the Central Asian countries, as well as representatives of Russia, UN organizations, and the secretariat of the Islamic Bank of Development. Assin Garin, Kazakh transport minister, read a welcoming message from the presidents of Iran and Kazakhstan who paid a good deal of attention to the transport issues during their talks in Almaty.

The conference heard reports by the ministers and elected a commission on preparing the final documents. A working group was set up that will examine the draft plan for developing the transport sphere of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] countries. It is anticipated that decisions will be made on expanding and creating a common network of railways and roads, navigation, reconstructing airports, and establishing air routes among the capitals and major cities of the ECO countries.

Iranian Minister Speaks at Session

LD2610150993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] A meeting of transport ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organisation [ECO] has convened in Almaty, capital of Kazakhstan. Ten member countries are participating.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's minister of roads and transport told the session of the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposals to improve in communications networks, provide necessary facilities for transport and international border crossings, and benefit from multidimensional [as heard] and container transport. He also noted the expansion of port facility services, use of preferential tariffs, and establishment of ECO's joint shipping company with the assistance of the member countries. He called on member countries to make provisions for establishing ECO air transport for the purposes of developing cultural-tourist activities throughout the region.

The three-day session began yesterday and will be discussing ways of developing road, rail, air, and navigation transport and setting up port facilities.

Yeltsin Sends Greetings to UNESCO General Conference

LD2510174993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1232 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev and Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Paris October 25 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a message of greetings to the 27th general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation [UNESCO], which opened here on Monday [25 October]. Its text was circulated among session participants later in the day.

"I cordially greet participants in the 27th session of the UNESCO general conference," the message reads. "Ideals of this Organisation and its noble activities find a positive response in Russia which firmly took the road of democratic changes and ensuring human rights. We highly value the understanding and support from the international community, which we need so much," the document says.

"Now, at the turn of the centuries, we should do our utmost that culture of peace and respect for human rights would dominate, that there would be more freedom and democracy, less conflicts and destruction which are generated by ignorance and poverty and that natural and cultural heritage would preserve better while the exchange of ideas and information would improve," the message stresses.

"We are ready to actively participate in concerted actions of the international community to create and use efficient instruments of international sharing of advanced experience, knowledge, modern technologies as well as mutual enrichment of national cultures," the president noted.

"I'm sure that UNESCO will gain its universality, and its activities will be more purpose-oriented and fruitful," Yeltsin said.

The president wished all the participants in the general conference successes in fulfilling UNESCO's intellectual and ethical mission, drafting decisions capable of promoting scientific and technical progress, protecting environment in the conditions of stable development, stronger freedom, democracy and peace as well as moral solidarity of mankind.

Science Minister Gives Address

LD2610230193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2110 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev, Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Paris October 27 TASS— Russian minister for science and technical politics, Yuri Saltykov, head of a Russian delegation to the 27 session of the UNESCO

general conference and chairman of the Russian committee for UNESCO affairs, addressed the conference in Paris on Tuesday [26 October].

He said that the collapse of the communist regime has failed to bring about the expected triumph of democracy, since democracy is a complex and a sensitive system demanding time and tremendous efforts for its construction. "Life itself has proved that it is a complex, painful and dramatic process, especially under conditions of such a country as the Russian Federation," Saltykov said.

"We highly appreciate UNESCO's support in democratic transformations in our country, intellectual and other assistance to reforms in Russia's education, science and preservation of its culture," Saltykov said.

"The Russian Government confirms the adherence to the observance of basic human rights, including the freedom of the press and the right to objective information. Russia actively supports efforts made by UNESCO leaders to reform this organisation and adapt it to conditions of the post-confrontation peace. We welcome efforts aimed at restoring the universal character of UNESCO—returning the United States, Great Britain and Singapore to the organisation and admitting new members," Saltykov said.

"The danger of UNESCO's 'neopolitisation' cannot be overlooked. Russia comes out against the use of UNESCO authority in resolving problems not connected with the activities envisaged by its charter," the Russian minister said, adding that Russia cannot agree to having outcasts in international humanitarian, cultural and intellectual cooperation, and all the more so, in the UNESCO framework.

Further Saltykov Remarks

LD2510214893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2027 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev and Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Paris October 25 TASS—"Russia always participated in all of the major UNESCO programs since the organization was created, because science, culture and education played an important role in our social policy", Boris Saltykov, science minister of Russia and head of the Russian delegation to the current 27th session of the UNESCO general conference, told ITAR-TASS.

"Today Russia faces hard times", the minister went on, "and that is why we use the UNESCO potential to solve some of our problems". He reminded that this summer Federico Mayor Zaragoza, secretary general of UNESCO, visited Moscow and met Boris Yeltsin. As a result they agreed on UNESCO's direct participation in three projects - to restore the Bolshoi Theatre, the State Library and the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

According to the minister, Russia intends to go on taking part in the UNESCO program of telecommunications development. "Participation in this global program aimed at raising the educational and scientific standards will give impact to overcome many of our problems", he concluded.

Minister Appeals to UN for Help With Social Reforms

LD2610104793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0035 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 26 Oct—The major changes in the republics of the former USSR and states of Eastern Europe have exacted "too great a social price." "A carefully conceived system of international support for social security reforms is needed to put these countries back on their feet. This was stated by E. Pamfilova, the Russian Federation's minister of social protection of the population, in an address on Monday [25 October] to the Third Committee (covering social and humanitarian issues) of the UN General Assembly.

"The success of economic reform is directly dependent on having an effective system of social security. The existing system, however, must be subjected to thorough reform, taking into account international practice and generally recognized standards... By and large, we aim to rely on our own resources, since our production potential and manpower base are still great. But it has to be realized that, in current circumstances, technical assistance, which may be small in quantity but substantial in terms of quality, will help the countries of Eastern Europe and the former USSR to rise far more quickly to their feet, provided it is given in time," E. Pamfilova stressed.

She said the implementation of economic reform in the Russian Federation since the beginning of last year, when many prices were "freed," the planning of production and distribution was terminated, a new tax system was introduced, and foreign trade liberalized, led to swift changes in the country's socioeconomic situation. "The increase in prices which followed deregulation sharply reduced the public's purchasing power," the minister pointed out.

Plan To Protect Georgian Rail Links Drawn Up

LD2610134693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1208 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent Viktor Golovin for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi October 26 TASS—Headquarters of Russian troops in Transcaucasia has completed the drawing up of plans for joint activity of Russian, Armenian, Azeri and Georgian troops to protect the railway lines which connect the Georgian port of Poti with the main centres in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

According to Colonel Gennadiy Dolgachev, a spokesman for the Russian army in Transcaucasia, under these plans Armenian troops will guard the stretch of the railroad between Poti and Kutaisi, Russian troops between Kutaisi and Tbilisi and Azeri troops - east of Tbilisi.

According tot he plans, permanent guard posts are due to be positioned at the bridges and tunnels, while the railway in the open will be protected by mobile groups.

However, Azerbaijan has declined to participate citing the collapse of its own armed forces as the reason. Armenia has detailed 900 troops but announced repeatedly that it "cannot enter the domain of its brothers with arms", according to Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has ordered the allocation of resources for the operation but an order to begin the operation has yet to come.

Gennadiy Dolgachev rejected reports alleging that the Russian army has transferred tanks T-72 and other military equipment to the Georgian government troops in western Georgia. He declared categorically that since September 1992, Russia has transferred no military equipment to Georgia even though it had failed to complete deliveries under the Tashkent agreement.

As concerns reports about the arrival of Russian military transport aircraft at the airforce field in Vaziani, outside Tbilisi, the colonel explained the planes were their to relocate a separate liaison brigade from the region.

Russian Finance Minister Discusses Ruble Zone

LD2510180793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The process of creating a new type of ruble zone does not envisage the immediate union of monetary systems immediately after the signing of multilateral and bilateral agreements, a press conference at the Russian Finance Ministry was told.

The creation of a ruble zone does not mean one-sided benefits for anyone, and the agreements signed do not exclude the introduction of national currencies in CIS countries, according to Boris Fedorov, the finance minister and a deputy prime minister. Russia respects the decision by a number of states to bring in their own currencies.

Boris Fedorov thinks that all countries wishing to enter the new type of ruble zone will have to undergo a transitional period to allow their economies to converge and monetary systems to be unified.

Problems of Single Zone Examined

PM2610145593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Single Ruble Prospects Still Vague"]

[Text] The talks last Friday and Saturday among Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan on the creation of a single ruble zone have ended in a draw, to put it mildly. On Tuesday 26 October these talks will be continued, but it would be quite naive to expect any substantial advances.

This fact should be admitted quite unequivocally unless we want the recently signed intergovernment agreements on the unification of monetary systems to suffer the fate of all previous agreements on this question. Too much time has already been lost to continue to deceive each other and to pretend that there are no problems and that it all depends only on what the sides want.

Unfortunately even at the very first stage of preparing to unite the monetary systems a fundamental mistake was made, to wit that it is enough for agreement to be reached in a few republics on a number of fundamental laws for the ruble to become the common currency for these countries. And the sources of this mistake are understandable—our communist past when the ruble exchange rate in our country was set administratively and goods cost whatever we wanted.

But Russia's recent experience shows that the monetary system and monetary policy include a whole range of mechanisms, including the formation of a developed currency market. You will agree that only recently has the Russian ruble become more or less stable and one can already speak even of its internal convertibility. Yet, how many efforts have been spent on the creation of a currency market?

But what will happen if Russia, having agreed several laws with its partners, issues them with new cash rubles (it is no longer a case of noncash rubles)? When its neighbors have no currency market this money will immediately surface in Russia, destabilize the ruble exchange rate, and encourage inflation. That means that all the present Russian Government's plans for swift financial stabilization will come to nothing.

Another problem also arises: For a long time yet it is proposed to implement noncash money turnover in the republics separately—after all it is necessary to ascertain what sums have been entered into the accounts of these

Kazakh and Uzbek enterprises. There is too much work here and all this time will Kazakh workers' wages be paid in ordinary Russian rubles? At what exchange rate? This is a question which cannot be resolved in practice.

Of course, to be frank Russia with its sudden replacement of money has played a very dirty trick on its closest partners. Right now old rubles from throughout the former Union are flooding into Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, which is destabilizing their economic situation.

It is stupid to behave that way with one's closest partners. But it would be no less stupid out of a sense of guilt to do yet another stupid thing—immediately to supply new cash. And in the specialists' opinion there is only one way out here.

Other republics must introduce provisional currencies and on the one hand thus defend themselves and on the other begin to build their own normal money and currency markets. And when the exchange rates of national currencies are stabilized against each other—naturally not without efforts from each side—then there can be a unification of monetary systems. Only a clear understanding of this goal and the specific nature of the actions in this direction can bring us success.

It is true that there is perhaps one more path: the rapid creation of a common state with a common parliament and common economic structures. But this path seems very utopian— Although anything is possible right now.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 Oct

LD2710063893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0521 GMT 27 Oct

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 27 TASS—"The Executive Branch Goes to Elections to the Legislative Branch" is the headline under which ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries a series of the photographs of members of the government and of the presidential administration of Russia who have stated their intention to participate in the December elections to the Federal Assembly.

While they actively express their political sympathies, President Boris Yeltsin, apparently not without reason, "distances himself from any political movements, parties and public associations", the newspaper notes.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI points out that the path of compromises with the old-guard elite of the communist nomenklatura "has completely outlived its usefulness".

In an article headlined "an unfinished statehood building will collapse all the same", the newspaper writes that the new free democratic Russian statehood must seek the backing of civil society and rely on the votes of reform advocates, not continue to flirt with regional and sectoral bosses or try to ingratiate itself with prior officeholders.

The adoption of a new costitution and elections on a democratic basis to all bodies of power will complete the establishment of Russian statehood, will build the edifice of statehood to the full and will put an end to the troubled times, the newspaper believes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA runs an article raising the question of why the idea of creating a Uralic republic, suggested by Sverdlovsk region governor Eduard Rossel, proved so tenacious. He hoped very much, the newspaper notes, that the people would elect him to the post of republican leader. So, he set out a procedure for the election of governor in a draft local constittuion.

"He could not imagine that from october 1993 governors would be appointed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and not elevated to the offices on the wave of electoral publicity stunts," the article said.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) carries a big article on the critical position of the defence sector of the Russian Federation. "A chronic shortage of funds for the Defence Ministry to pay for defence products made under the state-placed orders and for research and design efforts has already become a norm," the newspaper writes.

Further cuts in appropriations "threaten not only with the loss of the ability to create unique systems of armament but also with serious social upheavals", considering that 30-35 million people are connected with the defence sector in this or that way, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA pointed out.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA turns to the subject of uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources by the Army and defence industry enterprises for decades.

An article to this effect expresses hope that following the enactment of the Russian president's draft decree on the establishment of the Russian Defence Ministry's ecological units, the formation of which is slated for 1993-1994, the Army will be able not only to make up for the damage it does to the environment but also tackle ecological problems facing the entire country.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports an aggravation of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, being of the opinion that in prospect the situation concerning Nagorno-Karabakh "will become gradually complicated to grow into a large-scale stand-off."

Foreign Ministry Official Gives Briefing 26 Oct

Moscow 'Satisfied' With U.S. Talks

LD2610135893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—The Russian side is satisfied with the character and results of talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, at a briefing held here today.

"Substantial talks with Boris Yeltsin, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Yegor Gaydar and Andrey Kozyrev have once more demonstrated the progressive development of Russo-American relations, partnership and friendship and helped to strengthen the mechanism of our interaction," the Russian diplomat said.

Need for Joint Measures in Georgia Noted

LD2610174893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1526 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] There was a briefing for Russian and foreign journalists in Moscow today. Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Press and Information Department of the Russian Government, said in particular:

[Begin Karasin recording] As you know, at a meeting in Moscow on 8 October between the heads of state of Russia and three Caucasian states, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze asked the governments of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to take joint measures to guard and provide for the uninterrupted functioning of the Poti-Tbilisi-Baku and Poti-Tbilisi-Yerevan railways, along which the three Trans-Caucasian states receive vital supplies, as well as in connection with the severe deterioration in the military and political situation along a significant part of this railway.

On 19 October, Shevardnadze made another appeal to the peoples and governments of these states with this request. The necessity of reacting positively to the appeal by Shevardnadze was recognized. In this context, the Russian Ministry of Defense was instructed to allocate from within the Trans-Caucasian Group of Russian Forces, forces and materiel that could be used jointly with Georgian and Armenian sub-units, as well as Azerbaijani formations, in this peacekeeping action. I would like to emphasize that this is precisely a question of joint measures, not of any unilateral action by Russian sub-units, and all the more so not of an attempt to interfere in the Georgian internal conflict. Our sub-units are to carry out a specific task: To protect the main railway line. According to our information, the Armenian and Azerbaijani Governments are so far examining the issue of the possible forms of their participation in this collective peacekeeping action. We hope that practical action will follow soon. [end recording]

Iraq Urged To Cooperate With UN

LD2610140893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS dimplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Although Iraq has made certain positive steps towards the implementation of the UN resolution on the post-crisis settlement in the Gulf region, Russia still urged Baghdad to fully comply will all demands of the Security Council, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing on Tuesday [26 October] commenting on the recent talks in Moscow between Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov and his Iraqi counterpart Riad al-Qaisi.

Russia also said Iraq has to constructively cooperate with the UN special commission on the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Karasin stressed quoting Kolokolov as saying that this is the only way for Iraq to return to the ranks of fully-fledged members of the internationakl community and to have sanctions against it lifted.

Burundi Coup Denounced

LD2610140693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Russia is concerned and alarmed over dramatic developments in Burundi, where a military group made a coup several days ago, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

The Russian side resolutely denounces adventurist actions of the plotters who have put their country on the verge of a civil war, said the official.

"We call for Burundi's return to democracy, national concord and civil peace, prevention of bloodshed and immediate restoration of legitimately-elected power bodies and order," stressed Karasin.

Main Themes of Christopher Moscow Talks Viewed

PM2610114193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1,3

[Aleksandr Shalnev article: "Christopher Promises All Parties Money, Kozyrev Offers PRAVDA Some Encouragement"]

[Text] The volume of "technical aid" which the United States is prepared to offer Russia for organizing and holding the December elections is $5 million-$10 million. I was told that by a high-ranking State Department staffer when assessing some of the results of the meetings that Secretary of State Warren Christopher has had in Russia.

The State Department official stressed in particular that the principle of evenhandedness in the distribution of the aid will be strictly observed: It will also be given to opposition parties and groupings.

The aid will be channeled through nongovernmental organizations in the United States such as the AFL-CIO labor union association and the international institutes of the Republican and Democratic parties. The money, which could be distributed almost immediately—just as soon as a request is submitted by the Russian authorities through, for example, the Central Electoral Committee—will be spent on holding conferences and seminars both for voters and for the people responsible for the elections. It is even planned, as the State Department man told me, to organize "classes" which will study the technique of "monitoring" ["obozrevaniye"] electoral districts on polling day to preclude the possibility of rigging and deception.

Washington's initiative, which has already met with Moscow's support—at any event at the level of the supreme Moscow leadership—is undoubtedly interesting. The problem as I see it, however, is the extremely imperfect state of our election law.

For example, the statute on elections to the Federal Assembly bans the use of resources from any foreign source. Will this ban also apply to the aid that the United States is ready to offer?

The pre-election situation in Russia absorbed the bulk of the time that the secretary of state spent in talks with our leaders. I am not sure, however, that the head of the U.S. diplomatic service got a clear idea of the alignment of forces. When he was asked at the press conference why he had not tried to meet with anyone who is not directly involved in the ruling bloc, Christopher protested, citing his meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who, in his words, "belongs to a different bloc from that to which Minister Kozyrev belongs." Later, after the press conference, I asked the secretary of state for clarification, noting that it was news to us when he said that the prime minister had already joined some kind of bloc. The secretary of state replied that he had apparently not gotten a completely accurate idea "from reading the newspapers." Whether he meant our newspapers or the American newspapers Christopher did not say.

What is important is this: Having undoubtedly gambled on Boris Yeltsin and, as far as one can judge from conversations with American experts, on "Russia's Choice," official Washington is ready to show considerable determination to get the Kremlin to hold elections that are truly democratic.

Christopher addressed the theme of the ban on certain parties and in particular on the mass media more than once during his meetings. When addressing students and professors of the Academy of the National Economy on Saturday he stated bluntly: "Even at times of the most intensive political battles the need to ensure civil order must be combined with freedom of speech."

On this score, it seemed to me, the secretary of state met with understanding at least on the part of Kozyrev. "Stick with it!" Kozyrev energetically advised PRAVDA's correspondent behind the scenes at the press conference even though at the conference itself he expressed surprise at PRAVDA "appealing to the West and even to hated Western democratic values" when asking the secretary of state to comment on the ban on a number of publications.

An important item on the agenda of Christopher's meetings was the question of Russia's possible membership of NATO. The secretary of state confirmed Washington's readiness for Moscow's full membership of the North Atlantic Alliance but added that this could be an evolutionary process. According to certain information, during the visit to Moscow and Zavidovo Christopher tested the ground about whether Boris Yeltsin will accept an invitation to visit Brussels in January for the meeting of heads of states and governments of the NATO countries. And right after Brussels U.S. President William Clinton will visit us in Russia.

Before that, in mid-December, Vice President Albert Gore is going to visit us.

By the end of the year, in the secretary of state's view, there will be another significant event in Russian-U.S. relations: the adoption by the U.S. Congress of legislative amendments which will finally mean the end of Russia's being regarded as a communist state. This will open the way to revoking many if not all of the restrictions which for many years held back trade and other business relations between America and the Soviet Union and then Russia. According to the specialists U.S. companies are losing around $27 billion a year through these restrictions—with regard to all the former socialist countries, admittedly.

Visit Shows Limits on Partnership

PM2610123593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 3

[Commentator Aleksandr Golts article: "Washington Stipulates Spheres of Partnership"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher certainly realized how sick we are of people interminably quoting Tyutchev's lines saying that "the mind cannot fathom Russia" and "all one can do is believe in

Russia." Nonetheless he did not resist the temptation and read them during his speech at the Academy of the National Economy in Moscow. He read them in order to once again emphasize an idea that was heard repeatedly over these few days during his talks with Boris Yeltsin, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Andrey Kozyrev: The U.S. Administration believes in Russia and believes in the future of the reforms being implemented.

It believes in them so much that it supported President Yeltsin without hesitation in the emergency situation, and one aim of this visit, as the secretary of state did not tire of reminding us, was to demonstrate this support. Washington also believes that in December the Russian people will make the right, free choice. The United States for its part is willing to provide technical assistance with the upcoming parliamentary elections. Moreover, neutral, extraparty assistance to all parties and groups participating in the elections. At this juncture, admittedly, Warren Christopher deemed it necessary to remind Russia's leaders that "even at times of intensive political struggle the need for civic order must go hand in hand with freedom of expression," and that "even at times of a fight against reaction true democrats have nothing to fear from a free press."

However, in my view, it is not only the U.S. hopes regarding the prospects for Russia's development both in terms of its economy and political system, eloquently expressed during the visit, that are of interest to us. Christopher's visit showed how people in the United States see Russia now, rather than in the future. Of course, it was nice to hear the head of the U.S. diplomatic department saying that after the radical changes of the last few years Russia is still a great power and that a U.S.-Russian strategic partnership is already in place today. However, whether we like it or not, this partnership is virtually entirely confined to the sphere of security.

It is primarily a question of nuclear arms nonproliferation within the former USSR, and Washington intends in conjunction with Moscow to have Kiev and Almaty fully implement their START I and Lisbon Protocol commitments. This was evidenced by Christopher's tactful but nonetheless palpable pressure on the leaders of Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

What is more, the U.S. Administration believes that the fight against the proliferation of mass-destruction weapons outside the post-Soviet space is in U.S. and Russian common interests. One is conscious, however, that it is not for politeness' sake but with consideration for the real state of affairs that the Americans say that without Russia they will have little success in this. Thus, Christopher was delighted by Russia's willingness to cooperate in banning the production of plutonium and uranium for nuclear weapons and also in concluding a treaty on an all-embracing ban on tests of these weapons.

Moscow is also assigned an important role in settling regional conflicts. But there is something odd here. By way of an example the secretary of state cited the Near East settlement. There is every indication that the United States has some apprehension regarding Moscow's peace efforts in nearby foreign countries. At least when Andrey Kozyrev spoke bluntly at a joint press conference of the desirability of setting up a special international fund to finance Russia's peacekeeping operations in nearby foreign countries Christopher was by no means in a hurry to voice approval. He confined himself to remarking that, in the U.S. view, these operations must be carried out within the framework of international efforts and must be funded by international organizations.

On the eve of the visit the new U.S. concept "Partnership for Peace" elicited considerable interest. Some people even ventured to say that it contains the hypothesis that Russia might join NATO. The question of the possibility of expanding the North Atlantic alliance has indeed been a fairly acute problem over the last few weeks. After all, the prospect of NATO's being enlarged with the East European states did not meet with an enthusiastic response in Russia, and now the United States has put forward a concept whereby the doors for cooperation with NATO states in the security sphere are open to any European country, including Russia. The plan is to conduct joint maneuvers and broaden contacts between armed forces. At the same time, as far as one can see, there is no question of guarantees of security.

The secretary of state noted that the NATO structure has taken decades to develop and should hardly be changed now, but the new concept currently takes the form of an idea rather than a concrete plan. I think that it is a fairly elegant way out of a difficult political situation. Obviously, if it is put into practice no will find themselves discriminated against. This episode vividly demonstrates the current stage of U.S.-Russian relations. Real partnership is only just being built. There are contradictions and problems. However, the sides do not only intend to record these contradictions. They are trying to find and often do find mutually acceptable solutions.

Expanded Operations With U.S. in Space Discussed

LD2610121193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 26 ITAR-TASS—A set of problems relating to the preparation for, and carrying out of space missions by Russian cosmonauts aboard the U.S. space shuttle in 1994 and by American astronauts aboard the Russian space station Mir in 1995-1997 was examined at a meeting between specialists from the two countries here today.

Working groups of representatives of the Russian Space Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency of the United States meet on a regular basis within the frame of the government agreement on the development of cooperation in space.

This time, experts examined thoroughly problems of scientific, technical, financial and organizational character associated with the targeted expansion of work under the earlier adopted joint Russia-American programme "Mir-Shuttle". They also discussed plans for Russia's participation in a project aiming to create an international orbital station.

Kozyrev Meets With UK's Major

LD2610133493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1153 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Pakhomov, Yuriy Sidorov and Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] London, 26 Oct—The British Government fully supports President Boris Yeltsin's process of democratic reforms, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated to journalists after a conversation with Prime Minister John Major held here. The British side showed great interest in preparations for the upcoming parliamentary elections in our country in December, the head of the Russian foreign political department said; he arrived in Britain on 25 October on a two-day official visit.

During the meeting, they touched on problems of relations between Russia and the G-7 group of leading industrial countries and discussed the situation in the world's hot spots, primarily in former Yugoslavia, in light of the fact that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is currently in London. As is known, there are active efforts to break the Yugoslav deadlock in view of the approaching winter. "If no barrier of political accords is put up in good time before General Winter," the minister added, "there will be a humanitarian catastrophe in former Yugoslavia." Since Russia is an active participant in the Yugoslav settlement process, the meetings with John Major and Butrus-Ghali were of great interest to us.

Answering questions, A. Kozyrev confirmed that the possibility of holding a G-7 foreign ministers meeting in Moscow is currently under discussion. The idea of such a meeting has been pretty well received at the highest level, but a great deal of preparatory work is needed to hold it.

The Russian minister visited parliament, where he had a meeting with John Smith, the leader of the opposition Labor Party, and also attended a sitting of the House of Commons when the prime minister was answering lawmakers' questions.

Discusses Yugoslavia

LD2610190893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1823 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations October 26 TASS—U.N. Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev discussed the problem of the convocation of a second conference on former Yugoslavia during their meeting in London, Joe Sills, an official representative of the U.N. secretary general, said in the U.N. headquarters on Tuesday [26 October].

He said that the U.N. secretary general had talks with the Russian foreign minister which continued for 90 minutes and covered a broad range of problems, including Somalia, Mozambique, Angola, Libya, Georgia and Afghanistan. They also discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in other parts of former Yugoslavia. In particular, an idea of the convocation of a second and subsequent conferences on former Yugoslavia was discussed expected to be a continuation of the London conference on former Yugoslavia, the U.N. official said.

Reaction to Ukrainian Position on Nuclear Weapons

Designer 'Worried' at State of Warheads

PM2610125393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian [illegible] 93 p 2

[Vladimir Gubarev and Igor Mosin report under the rubric "Danger Outside Politics": "Stanislav Voronin, Chief Designer of Nuclear Systems, Is Worried About Their Storage in Ukraine"]

[Text] "At the request of the prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine, I familiarized myself with the state of affairs at 'nuclear depots,' and I am very worried! The temperature is rising and the radiation situation is deteriorating.

"Nuclear warheads must be handled by servicing specialists. There is a schedule for checking each 'item.' A number of components require replacing within a certain period of time. Special equipment and stands are used to these ends.

"All preventive work being done in Ukraine on nuclear weapons is proceeding behind schedule.

"And another feature. It is forbidden to carry out repair and regulation work with the warheads [vzryvnoye ustroystvo] present. But the Ukrainians cannot remove a warhead on their own and they are conducting the work without observing the instructions.

"I state with utter certainty that it is not possible to organize either the dismantling, or particularly the recycling [utilizatsiya] of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

"This is an extremely complex problem, and none of the statements made by politicians on this issue have any foundations at all. The structure of a state-of-the-art nuclear bomb is such that it can only be dismantled by those who have assembled it, and they were all assembled in Russia."

Impact of Christopher Visit Viewed

PM2610124793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 1

[Viktor Litovkin commentary: "The First Two Nuclear Warheads Have Been Moved From Ukrainian Territory to Russia. Defective Ones"]

[Text] At the end of the week a special train carrying two strategic missile nuclear warheads left Buyan station near Kiev bound for Russian territory. It is now traveling along the Gorkiy railroad toward the plant where the warheads will be dismantled and inspected to discover the cause of the faults in them.

The fact is that defects emerged in these warheads during the process of maintaining them, the specialists claim, and there was a change in the gas environment inside the warhead body, a fact immediately signaled by the automatic mechanism. The condition of the warheads was deemed pre-accident. Eliminating the fault on the spot proved impossible so the warheads had to be sent back to the manufacturing enterprise.

After the warheads were taken from covered storage, loaded into a special freight car, and prepared for transport, unexpected complications developed. The Ukrainian customs service demanded that the documents authorizing export be completed again on the grounds that it did not have any confirmation that the agreement between the two countries on Russian compensation to Ukraine for the value of the fissionable materials contained in the warheads applies to these nuclear munitions.

For more than two weeks—from 5 through 22 October—the train containing the nuclear munitions stood in the siding at the station while correspondence was exchanged between functionaries of the two governments. The Russian side claimed that no additional documents were necessary because the terms of the transfer of the nuclear warheads from one state to another are stipulated not only by the accord of September 1993 but also by the intergovernmental documents of April 1992, which clearly state that the export of such materials is to be carried out without hindrance and is not subject to customs inspection. In Russia it was stressed that holding up freight cars with a load like this, especially a defective one which is not contained within a special concrete storage facility, is a very risky matter and could have dire consequences. The Ukrainian side, however, insisted that each such event requires a special decision without which export cannot take place.

Be that as it may, the train has now left. The 2,000 strategic nuclear warheads stationed in Ukraine have now been reduced by exactly two. Experts independent of the Russian Defense Ministry with whom I have spoken pointed out that this was helped not just by the goodwill of leaders of the Ukrainian customs and the Center for the Management of Strategic Nuclear Weapons but also by the preparation for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Kiev. A political scandal over the two defective warheads just before talks with Christopher, especially talks on the problem of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament, could complicate relations between the two states.

On the other hand, they assert, the political advantages from a delay with the transshipment of such a specific load could play into Russia's hands because it cannot be ruled out that Russia wanted to show the eminent visitor its southern neighbor's intractability on these problems.

Incidentally, those nuclear warheads which were at the center of an emergency at the Pervomayskiy base in Nikolayevsk Oblast in mid-September (see IZVESTIYA issue no. 175) have still not been sent back to the manufacturing plant.

Further on Ukraine's Stance

PM2710101593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Aleksandr Sychev report: "Christopher's Mission to Kiev Unsuccessful. Ukraine Prepared To Give Up Nuclear Weapons Only in Exchange for $3 Billion"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher went to Kiev to secure at long last Ukraine's agreement to get rid of the nuclear weapons remaining on its territory, but almost a year of vigorous Washington diplomacy in Kiev proved unsuccessful. Moreover, the Ukrainian position clearly changed for the worse.

Only recently Kiev was offering assurances that the pledges on nuclear disarmament would be approved by parliament at any moment. Only the most nationalist politicians in parliament, who seemingly did not reflect the opinion of the majority, were speaking of financial compensation and special security guarantees.

Now Secretary of State Christopher faced outright haggling. He was given to understand that success on the question of nuclear weapons in Ukraine will cost Washington at least $2.8 billion, and maybe $5 billion, as parliament Chairman Ivan Plyushch stated. "The more swiftly the problem of guarantees and financial aid is resolved, the more swiftly Ukraine will fulfill its pledges," Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko said.

An agreement whereby Washington will provide Ukraine with the $175 million promised earlier for the dismantling of warheads plus another $155 million as financial aid for the restoration of the economy was signed in Kiev.

The only response to this goodwill gesture that Christopher heard from President Leonid Kravchuk was: "Let parliament decide." Today the majority of the Ukrainian Supreme Council is effectively opposed to a nuclear-free status for the state. Christopher was promised that parliament might ratify the START I treaty by the end of the year, but with substantial amendments.

Ukraine is insisting that it be regarded as a nuclear state and be included in the negotiating process on nuclear arms on an equal footing with the five recognized nuclear powers. In exchange for the aforesaid amount of compensation and on condition that Russia returns the nuclear fuel for nuclear power stations recovered from the warheads, deputies are prepared to allow only 130 old SS-19 ICBM's whose lifetime is coming to an end to go "under the knife." As for the 46 modern SS-24 missiles and also the 40 strategic bombers equipped with nuclear weapons, it is proposed to leave them "temporarily" in Ukraine's arsenal. According to Dmitro Pavlychko, chairman of the Supreme Council Foreign Policy Committee, this could go on for "seven, 10, or 20 years."

The motives of the advocates of a "temporarily" nuclear Ukraine are perfectly obvious. Some see nuclear weapons as offering an opportunity to satisfy great-power ambitions, others would merely like to sell the weapons at the highest possible price regardless of the consequences.

As early as 1995 the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons might not be extended, and up to a dozen new nuclear powers threatening one another with force would emerge in the world. Nuclear tests would be continued. The fulfillment of the START I and START II treaties would also be wrecked.

The weapons on Ukraine's territory are included in the overall quotas for the cuts. If the Ukrainian SS-24's and bombers are excluded from the process even temporarily, then Russia, in order to comply with the timetable, will have to destroy its own, more modern systems. Naturally Moscow will not agree to this.

Kiev risks finding itself in political isolation. The annoyed U.S. secretary of state hinted at the possibility of such a development before leaving for the next destination on his itinerary—Belarus. "The retention of nuclear weapons will weaken your security, not strengthen it," he said. "It will hamper and maybe jeopardize the process of integration in the world community of democratic nations, which is the only real guarantee of Ukraine's security."

Ethnic Ukrainians Form Own Association

MK2610135093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 3

[Vitaliy Portnikov report under the "Diaspora" rubric: "First Congress of Russian Ukrainians Held. Its Guests Were Sergey Shakhray and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy"]

[Text] A new, rather unexpected organization—the Association of Ukrainians of Russia (AUR)—has appeared on the Russian Federation political scene. While its leaders speak primarily about their association's cultural and educational objectives, it is clear that an organization capable of representing the interests of between 6 and 8 million citizens of Russia cannot stand aside from what is going on in the country. Neither will it do so: One of the decisions of the First Congress of Russian Ukrainians last weekend was the setting up of an electoral commission charged with conducting talks with the electoral blocs. The delegates quite sensibly thought that the appearance on the congress platform of Sergey Shakhray and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy (who talked with delegates in Ukrainian) was no accident. The AUR will support those associations of voters that are able to press for the adoption of a law on national minorities, to advocate real federalism in Russia: decentralization of political power and the economy, the transfer of powers to the regions, confirmation of the inviolability of the present borders in Europe. This "minimum program" alone contains a new approach by national minorities to their political role in the Russian Federation. AUR Council Chairman Aleksandr Rudenko-Desnyak thinks that the Russian leaders should have seen in this stance of his association a future change in the position vis-a-vis national minorities in the country—a change to which it is important to react in a timely manner.

Kiev officials were represented at the congress by Vice Premier Mykola Zhulynskyy; Oleksandr Yemets, minister for the affairs of nationalities and migration; and Volodymyr Krzhanovsky, ambassador to Moscow. They had to hear out the demands by Russian Ukrainians that boiled down to making changes in Ukraine's citizenship law which, many speakers thought, was hindering repatriation, and the creation of an effective system of information and education. In its address to President Yeltsin the congress proposes that the AUR be formally represented in the Federation Council (with a consultative vote), that Ukrainian radio and television programs be relayed to the regions in Russia with a high proportion of Ukrainians, and that a Russian-Ukrainian university be established in Moscow.

Russian Ambassador to Kiev Leonid Smolyakov, who was also present at the forum, noted that the experience of staging the congress of Ukrainians in Russia may be helpful in organizing a congress of Russians in Ukraine. As a matter of fact, concurrently with the Moscow forum, a congress of Russian communities of Ukraine was under way in Kiev. If formally registered as organizations, the two biggest communities of neighboring countries can be a weighty factor in their future relations—understandably, should the associations' influence spread onto the masses of Ukrainians in Russia and of Russians in Ukraine.

Anti-Russian Stance of Armed Nationalist Grouping Viewed

PM2610154393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 7

[Correspondent Boris Sverdlov report: "Ukraine: Gunmen Get Angry"]

[Text] Kiev—The recent bloody events in Moscow have really forced everyone to look at the current situation in Ukraine in a different way. Some people, above all the

national radicals, have seen the root of the problem in the strengthening left-wing blocs where, according to them, former communists rule the roost. The most hotheaded see them as agents of Russia and as anti-independence saboteurs who have brought the young, unconsolidated statehood to economic collapse.

What is interesting is that at the last session of the Supreme Council the national [radical] deputies, while criticizing the representatives of the body of deputies from the southeast, where the Communist Party is just about to be registered, uttered not a word of condemnation against the illegal paramilitary formations created in the west of Ukraine, as if such things do not actually exist.

Nevertheless the moderate deputies, and they are the majority in parliament, were unambiguously against driving the communists underground, which could do Ukraine irreparable harm. Moreover, many regarded the nascent Communist Party's program, which envisages strengthening the republic's autonomy and equal economic partnership with all Commonwealth countries, as one of common sense.

At the same time representatives of industrial regions demanded that President Kravchuk immediately outlaw all illegally created paramilitary formations and, above all, disarm them. The danger posed by "men with weapons" which they use as they see fit was convincingly demonstrated by the October events at the White House and Ostankino. Many people are particularly alarmed by the Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNSD] organization, which was set up in Lvov and has put down deep roots in Cherkassy, Ivano-Frankovsk, and Kiev Oblasts.

In the Donbass, for example, this organization, which has already caused a stir, is producing a counterreaction. You repeatedly hear people say that if the authorities continue ignoring it they will have to set up their own armed people's militias as a counterbalance. Kravchuk's statement on closing down illegal armed formations and the Justice Ministry's refusal to register the UNSD were greeted with approval there.

The UNSD leaders launched an extensive propaganda campaign after this. According to them, by intervening in the bloody fighting which has taken place in the Dniester region and is continuing in Georgia, the gunmen are acting as peacemakers and defenders of Ukraine's national interests. Admittedly, they consider it redundant to explain where lies the threat to Ukraine's national interests in, say, Georgia. On the other hand, they frankly state that the gunmen who head off to instill order in neighboring countries are frequently subsidized by Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement] and Ukrainian Republican Party activists. While the protection of anti-Russian demonstrations by armed guys from the UNSD is simply ascribed to helping out the law-enforcement agencies....

But that's not so dreadful. In the heat of their anger at the authorities they go so far as to make threats: If just one of our men is arrested the organization will switch to all-out terror against staffers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor's Office, and the courts. A. Shkyl, chairman of the Lvov Oblast UNSD, was even more categorical. There should be no playing around with a ban on the UNSD, otherwise, he warns, the gunmen, who are very experienced, will no longer be controllable.

The fact that armed formations recently held an unsanctioned demonstration under the banner of their unregistered organization in downtown Kiev shows that the threats are not without foundation. And, incredibly, they got away with it....

The UNSD leaders are awaiting the Supreme Council session where the fate of an amendment to the Criminal Code will be decided. The UNSD considers that the draft law has been prepared specially with their organization in mind in order to remove an influential political force prior to the actual parliamentary elections. If the organization is officially wound up it will go underground and launch a terror campaign against law-enforcement agencies and the authorities, Andrey Shkyl and Oleg Vitovich stated once again at a news conference in Lvov.

Aspects of Ukraine Decision To Use Chernobyl Considered

MK2610124993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Andrey Vaganov report under "Problem" rubric: "Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station To Operate for Some More Time. How Long—It Will Depend on Many Conditions"]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament has rescinded its own recent decision by allowing the continuation of operations at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. (It should be recalled that at present there are three RBMK-1000 power units at Chernobyl, which were put into operation in 1977, 1978, and 1981.) One does not have to be clairvoyant to predict how negative a reaction this would draw not only in Ukraine, but all over the world. This is what actually happened: The United States and the Western European countries have already expressed their extreme concern over the decision by the Ukrainian parliamentarians.

Naturally, this raises the question of what prompted the Ukrainian legislature to take this step despite the unequivocally negative attitude of the public? It is plainly evident that these unpopular measures were taken under pressure from purely economic problems. Ukraine simply does not have power reserves that would make up for the closure of Chernobyl, all the more so on winter's eve. As early as 1991, Chernobyl ranked third among the five Ukrainian nuclear electric power stations in terms of electric power production, with 14,478.5 gigawatt-hours (after the Zaporozhskaya station's 27,086.5 and Yuzhno-Ukrainskaya's 16,715.5). At the

same time, Chernobyl produced the cheapest electricity: Its production cost was 0.98 kopecks per KWh in 1991 prices.

Still, even economic factors would have hardly been enough to change the earlier decision on closing down Chernobyl, had it not been for objective, purely technical prerequisites. "The matter of closing one nuclear power station or another is more technical than political, and it should be decided upon by a competent expert commission, not by parliament." This statement by Remi Karlay, chairman of the World Association of Nuclear Power Station Operators, could well be contested. Nonetheless, nuclear power specialists throughout the world, including Ukrainian ones, are certain that Chernobyl could, and even should, be in operation until its reasonable potential is exhausted (another 15 to 20 years).

The international conference on radiation security held in mid- September in Karlsruhe also confirmed that Chernobyl should be in operation. It should be emphasized that in the former USSR all power units equipped with RBMK reactors were improved. "These are effectively totally different nuclear electric power stations with a qualitatively new level of security and with an improved technological regime," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA was told at the Russian Federation Atomic Energy Ministry.

Finally, there is one more aspect to all these stories about the Chernobyl that should not be missed. Of course, if a decision is made to build a new nuclear power station with new reactors, they will be more reliable than the current ones. But then the question arises: Who will build these nuclear power stations (provided that Ukraine finds possibilities to finance the project, which is fairly doubtful)? In May of last year, Yegeniy Adamov, general designer of NIKI (Moscow), claimed: "At present, the political structures of the West that back their electric power industry have launched a determined campaign in the mass media to discredit the domestic nuclear power industry under the pretext of security considerations. The actual objective of the campaign is to help strangle the Russian nuclear power industry, to get rid of its competition on the world nuclear fuel market, and, finally, to conquer the electric power market of both the former USSR and a number of other states that tended to place corresponding orders in Russia."

In fact, sooner or later, Ukraine will evidently have to make a choice: to switch to the Western nuclear power industry, where everything is reliable but very expensive, or to stick with the Russian nuclear power sector, whose nuclear technology, according to the Russian Atomic Power Ministry, is second to none in the West, but with which more lenient conditions can be negotiated.

'Expert' Says Moscow To Keep Using Chernobyl-Type Reactors

OW2710102593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Russia will not shut down its nuclear reactors of the same type as the one at Chernobyl which caused the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986 despite opposition from neighboring countries, a Russian nuclear expert said Wednesday [27 October].

Armen Abagyan, director general of the Research Institute of the Nuclear Power Plant Operations Scientific and Industrial Association in Moscow, made the statement in a symposium.

He said recent international inspection missions have all concluded that safety levels at the reactors are now at "an acceptable level."

On October 21, the Ukrainian Parliament voted to reverse its decision to close the Chernobyl nuclear power station by the end of this year. Deputies voted to continue operating the station under strict control by government authorities and scientific experts.

Abagian said Russian-designed RBMK reactors, the same type as at Chernobyl, have all undergone modifications since the accident.

"Our main approach is to do our best and prevent accidents," he said. "That's why our concept is to continue operations up to the reactors' design lifetime."

But Morris Rosen, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assistant director general for nuclear safety, told the symposium many countries outside the former Soviet Union still oppose continued operation of the RBMK-type reactors for political reasons.

Rosen said the risks to the nuclear power industry in countries of the former Soviet Union from another major accident at any of the 15 operational RBMK reactors are great.

"The long-term operation of RMBK reactors concerns the public and the nuclear industry," Rosen said.

"There's no question that one more serious accident would perhaps terminate the nuclear industry in many countries," he said.

An IAEA survey of safety measures at RBMK reactors in the former Soviet Union has acknowledged that modifications implemented or being proposed will bring an increase in their level of safety.

Russian experts and Japanese nuclear power industry representatives attended the symposium, which was sponsored by the Science and Technology Agency and the Swiss-based International Atomic Energy Agency.

Case Against Use of Troops in Georgia Argued

PM2610131793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Golts article under the "Topic of the Week" rubric: "Mirages of Peacemaking and Realities of Civil War"]

[Text] Chaos and complete disruption caused by civil war reign in the country. The central authorities have practically lost all control over the situation. Food stocks have been plundered and the people are condemned to starve. Their only salvation lies in a kind of humanitarian intervention, whereby foreign troops take control of the most important transport links and ensure the delivery of foodstuffs and medicines.

We are talking about Georgia, whose government has appealed to Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan to establish military control over the major railroad line in the Transcaucasus. It is clear that even if Yerevan and Baku do respond to this appeal, their involvement will be symbolic. Consequently, it is Russia which has to make a choice. It would doubtless be a misrepresentation of the facts to claim that their choice is exactly the same as that which, for example, stood before Washington six months ago, when a decision was made to send U.S. troops to Somalia. But in any case there is an obvious parallel.

It is therefore worth taking a good look right now into the reasons for the failure of the U.S. action which, it seemed, was simply bound to succeed. It was accompanied by clear moral support both within the country and in the world at large. This was evidenced by the UN mandate and the fact that subunits from other states joined in with the operation. Nor were there any doubts from a purely military point of view. The troops had overwhelming superiority and—what is very important in these situations—the permission to use their arms.

Nevertheless, the United States has suffered a defeat. This occurred for two interconnected reasons. On the one hand, those who became the Americans' enemies were people not bound by any moral restraints. General Aidid perpetrated all his provocations using crowds of women and children as cover, and organized all his ambushes in city districts. Therefore, the retaliatory actions, in which the very well trained and equipped troops attempted to take advantage of their superiority using aircraft and other modern means of warfare, led to the death of peaceful civilians. This put in doubt the military action's initial humanitarian aims.

On the other hand, the UN troops themselves, including U.S. troops, began to sustain losses which understandably caused irritation in the United States. Then Washington, which had simply not accomplished the tasks it had set itself, was forced to set a deadline for the withdrawal of its troops.

This is not its only failure (something similar has happened in Haiti). It is not in any way possible to put into the effect the idea of the new world order by using military force. The administration, it seems, is encountering less and less enthusiasm for what only recently was called the "Clinton Doctrine." A doctrine which gives priority to military peacemaking.

It is said that even the prettiest girl cannot give any more than she has. It is clear today that there are limits even to the ability of even the best prepared and equipped troops to bring about peace. They may keep the peace, having placed themselves between the warring sides. They may carry out emergency humanitarian operations. But in attempting to stop a civil war by force, to establish peace by force, and to foist a certain system of values on people by force—and such a tendency has been seen clearly in the essence of the UN peacemaking operations recently—the UN troops inevitably turn into interventionists.

Having realized this, let us return to area of the former Soviet Union which is torn by conflicts. A couple of months ago we reacted very angrily to reports that the United States was allegedly intending not only to participate in settling these conflicts but also to exclude Moscow from this process. "Let us cope with our own conflicts," those who perceived this as dangerous interference demanded from Washington.

Meantime, the problem for Russia is, in my view, something completely different. It is not that people in the West are fearful of the Soviet empire being resurrected, and therefore react with a certain amount of fear to Moscow's peacemaking actions. The important thing is that they themselves do not intend to undertake any actions whatsoever aside from making ostentatious statements. Mr. Shevardnadze has already convinced himself of this having appealed in vain to the West for assistance for several months now. Moreover, even the CIS states themselves are desperately eager to carry out peacemaking duties until a war affects them directly.

Russia remains alone in the face of all these conflicts and, unlike Washington, has been forced to deal with them not out of a speculative desire to confirm its leadership, but in an attempt to actually guarantee its vital interests. It may be that we would like, but are unable, to shut ourselves off from these hot spots: There are no real borders between us, our economic and other ties are too extensive, and hundreds of thousands of Russians live there.

Indeed, our diplomats should do everything possible to explain that Russia, in carrying out peacemaking operations in nearby foreign countries, is not pursuing imperialist interests but acting in the interests of the whole civilized world. It has every reason to count on both moral and material support.

But even if it has this, it is still necessary to give priority to political and diplomatic methods and to consider the use of troops as an extreme solution. Take the situation

in Georgia. Russia has declared its willingness to take control of the railroad line from Tbilisi to Poti. At the same time it has firmly emphasized that we do not intend to intervene in the civil war in Georgia.

I think that this absolutely clear declaration should be backed up by imposing harsh conditions on Tbilisi. No one should have any illusions about Moscow intending to shore up a faltering regime at the point of a Russian bayonet. It is high time that we remembered that this regime has displayed, to put it mildly, inconsistency with regard to Russia during its entire existence. In the meantime, even a military operation which is limited in its tasks may bring our Army to a point where it is participating in bloody internal conflicts as it did during the Soviet era. How can you forget here that it was in Georgia, and "at the request" of the republic's leadership, that the Soviet Army was enlisted to pacify the opposition. As we know it turned out that the military behaved in an extreme manner on that occasion.

It would be only too superficial to think that Tbilisi does not at the moment have hidden designs to use the Russian Army. After all you can shift not only food and medicines by railroad, but also ammunition, fuel, and troops. I have no doubts that they intend to use it in this manner. This will inevitably lead to the railroad becoming the scene of the most violent combat operations. In what position then would the Russian troops find themselves?

You might suppose that they in particular will become the object of all kinds of provocations. The sides will attempt to blame them for their own military failures and their own cruelty.

Consequently it is necessary even now to think not only about the military but also, chiefly, about the political conditions which should debar our troops from participating in combat operations. Even now it is necessary to demand directly from the Georgian politicians that they refrain from attempting to resolve the country's problems on the battlefield. And to make military assistance dependent on the necessity to begin an all-embracing dialogue involving all political forces. It is necessary to involve in the dialogue all those politicians who do not wish to fight to the last Georgian and intend to achieve an accord. Only then can you talk of peacemaking. Only under such circumstances will Russia succeed in dealing with the harsh realities of someone else's civil war.

Baltic Fleet Commander Reviews Regional Security

WS2710094993 Kaliningrad YANTARNIY KRAY in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 3

[Report by V. Kostomarov: "Baltic Region and Parameters of Security"]

[Text] Between 9 and 11 October, Svetlogorsk was host to an international seminar on the pressing problems of security in the Baltic region. The seminar was attended by scientists from Russia, Germany, Sweden, and Lithuania.

On the last day of the seminar, the participants met with Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral Vladimir Yegorov. Different aspects were addressed at an improvised press conference. Speaking of the general situation, the commander noted that much had been achieved recently in strengthening security in the Baltic Sea basin. Political developments have led to changes in the military sphere.

Russia has no more enemies, that is, all those who were recently considered as possible adversaries. Confirming this thought, Yegorov recalled that military seamen from Great Britain, Denmark, and Canada had visited Baltiysk recently. During his last year's visit, Vice Admiral Braun, commander of the German Sea Force, informed about his country's intention to reduce the fleet by 50 percent.

Considerable reductions have also been conducted in the Baltic Fleet. The latter has been withdrawn from Poland and Lithuania, and its pull out from Latvia and Estonia is continuing. Since 1983, the number of ships has been reduced threefold. Personnel has shrunk by 40 percent in comparison with that on 1 January 1992.

One of the questions concerned the future of Baltiysk. The admiral reminded foreign journalists that Baltiysk is the only Baltic Fleet base in the southern part of the Baltic Sea. The mooring capacity of the fleet is unsuitable for commercial activity. What about the future? Presently, the issue of building a civilian port in Vostochniy, near Baltiysk, is being considered. True, a coordinated and approved project does not yet exist. In Yegorov's opinion, this port and the military base will exist side by side, without interfering with each other.

Speaking of nuclear security guarantees, the commander said that even back in the times of the Soviet Union, President Mikhail Gorbachev had stated that the Baltic region would become a nuclear free zone. As the legal successor to the USSR, Russia strictly obeys all previously concluded agreements in this sphere. The admiral has repeatedly stressed that there are no nuclear warheads on the fleet's ships, submarines, and aircrafts.

It was easy to predict that the problem of Sweden's Sea Force searching for foreign submarines at its coast would emerge. Yegorov categorically rejected the statements that Baltic Fleet ships intrude on Sweden's territorial waters. As for the active moves of the Swedish antisubmarine force, which are accompanied by a lively campaign in the mass media, the commander commented on this fact with humor: "Sweden must be a very rich country to afford to search for things that do not exist."

What will happen to those servicemen who will be transferred to the reserve due to a reduction in the Russian Sea Force? What are the guarantees for them in arranging their civilian lives? In the commander's opinion, there are no unusual problems here. Military

professions are not very different from their counterparts in civilian life. Moreover, part of the servicemen preparing for the reserve are currently undergoing training in Kronstadt. Yegorov said that he knew many servicemen in the reserve who earned more than in the fleet.

Touching on the Baltic Fleet commanders' relations with Lithuanian leaders, Yegorov noted that they were good. The Baltic Fleet withdrew its third coast defense division according to schedule and transferred several war ships to Lithuania on mutually beneficial terms. A recent invitation to the upcoming military exercise in the Lithuanian Armed Forces, which the Baltic Fleet leaders accepted with gratitude, also serves as proof of their strong contacts.

Further on Dumping of Nuclear Waste in Sea of Japan

Navy Delegation Visits Pacific Fleet

LD2610062193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0310 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok, 26 Oct—A group of admirals and officers of the Chief Staff of the Russian Navy led by Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Navy, arrived in the Maritime Kray today.

The official explanation of the sudden visit of the high-level commission is to study the state of military discipline and take measures to prevent accidents in the Pacific Fleet.

At the same time, according to information from well-informed sources, a subject of the commission's attention will be events connected with the controversial dumping of radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan. Although the TNT-27 tanker loaded with nearly 1,000 tons of dangerous cargo and ready to put to sea has been stopped at the last moment under pressure of the international public, the problem of recycling the waste has not been taken off the agenda.

It is thought that Admiral Kasatonov will take the most direct part in the examination of these questions and in working out the necessary solution so that problems of this kind may no longer affect the neighborly relations between countries of the Asian- Pacific region.

Japanese Delegation Visits Moscow

LD2610114493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1047 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vassiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo October 26 TASS—The Japanese Government delegation went to Moscow on Tuesday to participate in a meeting of a working group on joint studies of radioactive waste dumping into sea. It includes representatives from the Foreign Ministry and from other interested ministries as well as experts.

The meeting on radioactive waste to be held in Moscow on October 27-28 is called in compliance with understandings reached during the recent visit to Tokyo by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The coming meeting assumes special importance due to the recent dumping of low-grade radioactive liquids into the Sea of Japan from nuclear reactor cooling systems installed at Russian Pacific Fleet submarines. The dumping provoked a stormy wave of protests.

However, it would be interesting to learn for the Japanese that their nuclear power plants dump radioactive waste into the sea of japan on a regular basis and much greater quantities.

It is planned that the Japanese delegation will visit Vladivostok after the Moscow meeting, where they will inspect Russian facilities storing and processing radioactive substances.

Senior Officers Arrive in Far East

LD2610131293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok October 26 TASS—A group of admirals and officers of Russia's general staff, headed by Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander of the Russian Navy, arrived in Primorye, Russia's Far East, on Tuesday [26 October].

The official reason for the unexpected visit of the high commission is the need to study the military discipline and prevent emergencies in the Pacific Fleet.

At the same time, according to reliable sources, the commission will deal with events linked to the notorious dumping of radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan.

Although under pressure from the world public opinion tanker "TNT-27", loaded with almost one thousand tons of toxic radioactive substances, was not allowed to leave port, the problem of waste utilisation remains high on the agenda.

It is believed that Admiral Kasatonov will take part in handling this problem in a way which will ensure that good neighbourly relations between Russia and the Asian and Pacific countries are not affected.

Japan Reportedly Silent on Own Dumping

LD2610133393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1215 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo October 26 TASS—A classical "bury in oblivion" operation is now being launched in Japan, vehemently condemning Russia for its recent dumping of radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan, but keeping mum about the regular discharge of such waste into the sea from Japanese atomic power plants.

Russian Minister for Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhaylov said here on Monday, during his meeting with Chief of the Japanese Science and Technology Department Satsuki Eda, that the waste dumped by the Pacific Navy was 90 per cent less toxic than that annually discharged into the sea, near its own coast, by only one Japanese "Kashiwazaki-Kariwa" atomic power plant. Local experts are in full accord with this information, but journalists from leading Japanese newspapers, accredited at this department, have not published anything about the talk, and not a single mass medium of Japan has reported on the discharge of wastes from Japanese atomic power plants in the course of the 1.5-week-long massive anti-Russian campaign.

"No, how could you even think of it, we are by no means pressured by anybody," one of the reporters, attached to the department, told ITAR-TASS. "We simply believe that there is nothing new in Mikhaylov's statement," he added.

However, an express poll carried out by ITAR-TASS on the streets of Tokyo has shown that practically everybody, on the one hand, is outraged by "Russia's pollution of the sea", and, on the other, have implicit faith in the claim that Japanese wastes are being processed in keeping with the latest technological methods and stored in safe burial places. Many retail traders already refuse to accept "contaminated fish", caught in the Sea of Japan, while the newspapers are full of readers' letters, saying that the "perfidious Russians" cannot be trusted.

Of course, it is yet difficult to say what is behind this "conspiracy of silence", quite incredible for a really democratic state: Bureaucratic fear of inciting public anger, the old habit of Japanese journalists to take the cue from the authorities, or simply the "dark logics" of the whipped up sensation. One thing is clear: The psychological climate between the two countries has been greatly spoiled and much efforts will be required to remedy it.

Seoul Urges Tripartite Study

LD2610170193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 26 Oct 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul October 26 TASS—The government of South Korea has demanded through diplomatic channels on Tuesday that Japan either confirm or deny statements made by Russian Minister for Nuclear Power Engineering Viktor Mikhaylov alleging that Japan dumps nuclear waste from its nuclear power stations into the sea washing the Korean Peninsula.

The Seoul leadership suggests that Tokyo and Moscow make a joint tripartite investigation to establish an extent of the contamination of the sea to determine the real ecological situation off the Korean, Japanese and Russian shores, the YONHAP News Agency reported on Tuesday.

In the meantime, the first results of an investigation made by South Korean experts in the Sea of Japan have not confirmed any dangerous nuclear contamination.

According to reports received from the South Korean vessel "Onnuri" sailing in the vicinity of Russia's recent low level liquid discharge, the radiation level in the water today amounts to 3.8 microroentgen an hour which does not exceed the norm.

Dumping at Sea Defended

OW2610190693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Lana Gorbunova video report fom the "Utro" program's "Khameleon" segment]

[Text] The ecological aspect of political issues is becoming more important each day. An example of this is the scandal that has erupted in regard to Russia's dumping of radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan. The problem of recycling radioactive waste appeared simultaneously with the introduction of the atom into the military as well as the civilian spheres of life. However, nuclear power plants and weapons are being continually improved, while radioactive waste is being destroyed by primitive methods, particularly in our country.

You are viewing unique shots provided by Greenpeace, the international ecological organization, which graphically illustrate the ecological situation on the Russian coast bordering the Sea of Japan. Incidentally, the representatives of the Russian Navy command are expressing bewilderment in regard to the scandal in Japan over the dumping of radioactive substances. Ceasing to dump waste into the sea could lead to the heavy contamination of coastal zones and create a catastrophic situation on the shore. The state must not only consider the international ecological situation but also the ecological situation on its own territory, for dumping into the waters of the Sea of Japan is provoked by the need to protect the Far East coastal zone from radioactive poisoning. And now you will see the film shots taken firsthand on 18 October 1993.

The picture of tanker TNT27 repeatedly has been shown on television over the past few days, but this particular material has not been included in any report. However, this information on the demonstration held in front of the Russian Embassy by the Japanese members of Greenpeace has been furnished by the REUTER international agency.

Russia is relying on Japanese help to develop ways to recycle waste. One of the methods is treatment at a nuclear power plant, where the waste is dehydrated, preserved, concentrated in special containers, and placed in a repository. The second method is to dilute the liquid waste earmarked for dumping into the sea and instead dump it into the internal seas of Russia. Tanker TNT26, which was being prepared for the second instance of dumping into the Sea of Japan scheduled for 22 October, has remained at its berth. However, military experts think that sooner or later they will have to resume dumping waste at sea.

Dumping Seen as Plot To Damage Yeltsin

PM2610201793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Leonid Mlechin report: "Yeltsin's Policy Torpedoed in Sea of Japan..."]

[Text] The dumping of radioactive waste by the Russian Pacific Fleet in the Sea of Japan was a deliberate, premeditated, and carefully prepared attempt to wipe out the positive results achieved by Boris Yeltsin's talks in Tokyo.

This version of events is being put forward by certain high-ranking government apparatus staff who prepared the president's visit. The date of the dumping operation was changed three times until an exact date was chosen with very great care.

They roundly reject the simplest explanation of what happened: The radioactive waste was dumped immediately after Yeltsin's successful trip simply because the left hand of the Russian state apparatus has no idea what the right hand is doing, nor does it want to know.

IZVESTIYA has been told by sources which have stipulated that they want to remain anonymous that a secret and unofficial investigation into this sensational story has begun. They believe that the threads which will subsequently and inevitably lead back to Moscow must be sought in the Far East.

Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Navy, has flown out to Pacific Fleet Headquarters on urgent business. Officially he has gone to check on combat effectiveness. Unofficially he has gone to conduct a service investigation into the story of radioactive waste dumping.

Yeltsin's visit to Japan took place on the third attempt. The two previous visits, in the opinion of Russian diplomats, were basically wrecked. In both the fall of 1992 and this spring, two weeks before Yeltsin's planned departure for Tokyo, mythical documents surfaced in parliament and the press (from the Foreign Ministry or the Security Council) relating to preparations for handing back the four Kuril islands to Japan.

The noisy campaigns accusing the presidential entourage and the Foreign Ministry leadership of a lack of patriotism were well orchestrated and led people to think that there was a clandestine coordinated center.

Yeltsin's October visit was a surprise to everyone. It took place at a time when the radical opposition and its press were out of play and could not inflict a preemptive strike. Then, IZVESTIYA's interlocutors believe, they tried to wreck the improvement in Russian-Japanese relations retrospectively.

Maritime Kray Official States Concerns

LD2710065993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0420 GMT 27 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok, 27 Oct—The decision made by the central authorities to completely stop the dumping of slightly radioactive liquid wastes into the sea may lead to consequences unforeseen for the Pacific coast of Russia, head of the administration of Maritime Kray Yevgeniy Nazdratenko says. He stated that today at various moorings of the region there are cargo vessels and atomic submarines of the Pacific Navy overflowing with these wastes.

In Nazdratenko's opinion, unless urgent measures are taken there could be a catastrophe encompassing the whole Far East in the nearest future.

Undoubtedly, the head of administration of the Maritime Kray stressed, there can be no question of dumping these wastes in the Sea of Japan, which is a domestic sea for some states. Such wastes ought to be recycled in the Pacific or Arctic Oceans.

Nazdratenko announced that in Kherson a special tanker is being built which will be able to make trips to these oceans. But the ship will not be launched for a while. Meanwhile, major financial injections are needed, including from abroad, to resolve the problem of recycling radioactive wastes as quickly as possible.

Japan Providing Sustained Assistance to Kurils

LD2710093193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] It appears that the Japanese side is planning to move from one-off help injections to providing large-scale sustained humanitarian aid to the inhabitants of the four islands in the south of Kurils Archipelago. The fact that Japan's intentions are serious is confirmed by the arrival to the island of Kunashir of construction materials and equipment for a special warehouse where incoming goods will be kept.

Moscow Radio Comments on ROK-DPRK Talks

SK2710041793 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[From "Today's World" program]

[Text] Another working-level talks by the representatives of the DPRK and the ROK ended without reaching any results at Panmunjom. Station commentator (Kondrakiyev) points out that during the talks, discussions were mainly held on the exchange of special envoys of the presidents of the South and North.

The special envoys have the authority to play the role of mediators in resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. In early September, Pyongyang put forth the initiative to resume the South-North dialogue. The international community welcomed North Korea's initiative.

The South-North dialogue fell into a deadlock in late 1991 when Seoul decided that it will not suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise. As a reply to this decision, Pyongyang expressed its will to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in March, and rejected the International Atomic Energy Agency's experts to conduct inspections on its nuclear facilities.

This kind of unprecedented measure by the North Korean leadership increased suspicions on Pyongyang's nuclear program by countries concerned about this matter, especially the ROK. Even though North Korea, which is arousing suspicion, suspended its March decision, this issue has not been dispelled yet.

During the past few months, countries concerned exerted much efforts to know more about North Korea's nuclear program. For example, in the U.S.-DPRK talks on several occasions, the nuclear issue remained as a basic issue. Nevertheless, I believe that the people of the South and North themselves must finalize the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

Talks between the representatives of the South and North held on three occasions did not bring about concrete fruitions. I believe that what is important is the fact that talks are being conducted and that it will continue to do so.

A small hope was seen in the recent talks on future agreements. It was decided that the next talks between the representatives of the DPRK and the ROK will be held on 4 November.

Chinese General Arrives in Vladivostok for Border Talks

LD2610153993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The commander of China's Jilin Provincial Military District, Major-General Zhou Zaikang, arrived in Vladivostok, Russia, on Tuesday [26 October].

During his four-day visit, the general plans to discuss with the commander of Russia's Far Eastern Military District, Major-General Vitaly Sedykh, joint efforts to improve the guarding of the border between the two countries.

Iraqi Intelligence Head 'Clarified' Funding Opposition

PM2610122193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Jalal al-Mashtah report: "Director of Iraqi Intelligence Meets With Primakov; al-Qaysi Offers Deal To Ease Sanctions"]

[Excerpts] Moscow—AL-HAYAH has learned from sources very close to the Russian special organs that Sabir al-Duri, director of Iraqi intelligence, met during his visit to Moscow last week with both Yevgeniy Primakov, chief of the foreign intelligence organ, and Nikolay Golushko, minister of security.

The sources said that during his meeting with Primakov, al-Duri clarified Iraq's position in the light of reports about links between Baghdad and opposition leaders in Russia.

He confirmed the existence of contacts with a number of Russian organizations and figures. However, he pointed out that the Iraqi aid provided to them "was of a humanitarian nature." He denied that Baghdad had any link with any move opposed to President Boris Yeltsin. He emphasized Baghdad's interest in cooperation with Russia and its president.

A source at the Russian security Ministry has said that the name of Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian parliament, was not specifically mentioned during al-Duri's talks with Golushko. The sources added that the Iraqi sums were submitted to opposition forces of various inclinations in Russia.

A former official from the research center belonging to the Russian parliament, who declined to give his name because he is entering the elections, has told AL-HAYAH that he has information indicating that the parliament's leadership received sums from "Arab parties, among them Iraq."

He added that these sums passed through Gennadiy Birisadchinko [as transliterated], chairman of the parliament secretariat, and Anatoliy Melekhov, Khasbulatov's chief economic advisers.

He revealed that Melekhov, who supervised the organization of the "scientific cooperation conference" between Russia and the Arab countries, which was held under Khasbulatov's sponsorship, received during the conference sums which were not included in the parliament's budget.

The former official said that he resigned from his post early in the summer after attempts to implicate the

parliamentary studies center in "suspect" operations. He pointed out that the parliament's leadership tried to use the center as a facade to spend on "unknown" aims and register the expenditures as allocations for research and studies.

It is worth mentioning that members of the Russian parliament had visited Iraq. Among them was Sergey Baburin, leader of the "Russian Unity" bloc. They organized a campaign to urge the lifting of the international sanctions imposed on Baghdad or the suspension of Russian participation in the implementation of the sanctions. This issue was a main pivot for talks held in Moscow by Riyad al-Qaysi, undersecretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, who is leaving the Russian capital today. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned from well-informed diplomatic sources that the Iraqi delegation asked Moscow to help to secure international approval for Iraq to export crude oil, and if these endeavors succeed it expects Baghdad to fulfill Russian oil commitments toward states among them India and Bulgaria.

The sources added that Moscow is considering an Iraqi request to present a new initiative at the Security Council to lift part of the sanctions imposed on Iraq. It has been learned that al-Qaysi is going to make contacts in Beijing and other capitals to secure support for the initiative, and that there are French pledges to take a position supporting Moscow if it decides to accept the Iraqi offer. [passage omitted]

Report on Iraqi Aid Refuted

MK2610120093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 70, 26 Oct 93 (signed to press 25 Oct) p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iraq Helped Russian Opposition"]

[Text] A number of persons have refuted the information heard on "Itogi" [weekend TV news program] that a high-ranking staffer of the Iraqi foreign intelligence service, on a "confidential" visit to the Russian Federation, told his Russian counterpart Yevgeniy Primakov that Baghdad at one time or another had set aside $7 million in support of the Russian opposition. For example, Ahmad Sahran, press secretary of the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow, termed as "absurd" the suggestion that his country, finding itself in hard economic conditions, could "have found as much as $7 million in aid of whatever public organization in another country." Gennadiy Sayenko, deputy director of the Russian-Iraqi Friendship Society and former cochairman of the National Salvation Front, also thought this information "ridiculous" and "harmful to relations between Iraq and Russia."

Further on $7 Million Payment

PM2610162993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Anisimov report under "Scandals" rubric: "Did Khasbulatov Receive $7 Million From Saddam Husayn?"]

[Text] A scandal was reported on the "Itogi" program Sunday—apparently R. Khasbulatov once received $7 million from Iraq. The presenter cited a London-published Iraqi newspaper which wrote that during the visit of an Iraqi intelligence delegation to Moscow the Russian Federation Ministry of Security leadership was informed of this scandalous fact, described as a gesture of goodwill.

Concerned that Russia may now become a "second Kuwait," we made inquiries in this connection. It is nevertheless interesting to what extent the "threat from the East" is real and how the Islamists' fifth column is taking shape in Moscow.

A staffer of the relevant Russian Federation Foreign Ministry administration did not have any information at all on this subject. The Russian Federation Ministry of Security did not comment officially on the "Itogi" report either, proposing that explanations be obtained from the Foreign Intelligence Service. Admittedly, a Ministry of Security representative had a chuckle about this story. But this was unofficial.

Tatyana Samoylis, press secretary of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service director, confirmed the fact of the visit by an Iraqi intelligence delegation to Moscow, which took place in September of this year, before the September-October events. For obvious reasons, she could not speak about the nature of the talks, but she gave a 100-percent guarantee that the subject raised by "Itogi" was not broached there.

In the end, Iraq's great friends from V.V. Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party were lamenting that they would now be blamed for everything again. Officially, a spokesman for the Liberal Democratic Party leadership reported that the aforementioned report lies fully on the conscience of the "Itogi" presenter, since in principle people find out about such things after 100 years, and not a couple of days. In any case, the Liberal Democratic Party has never received any financial aid from Iraq. Or from Khasbulatov either.

Pacific Fleet Ships To Participate in Gulf Exercise

LD2610155693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The Russian Pacific Fleet's large anti-submarine ship Admiral Vinogradov, large landing ship Nikolay Vilkov and tanker Viktor Kolechitsky will take part in the naval exercise of Persian Gulf states in mid-November.

A decision to send warships there was made by the government. Viktor Ryzhkov, the Pacific Fleet's press office head, told Interfax. The exercise is to contribute to bilateral relations between the navies of Russia and Gulf states.

The Russian ships will be commanded by Captain 1st Grade Aleksandr Yakovlev. He commanded the Admiral Vinogradov which took part in the UN Gulf operation.

Russian Arms Sales in Gulf Viewed

PM2610112993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 4

[Article by Mikhail Pogorelyy: "We Still Have To Fight for Market Outlet"]

[Text] Russia's widely billed participation in major arms exhibitions and markets of world importance in the states of Northwest Asia (or in other words the Middle East) and the small quantity of contracts won there as a result have given rise among our public to feelings close to disappointment and despondency. Here too, people are saying, we have been bypassed and in this field too our own military-industrial complex has proved weaker than was supposed.

There is a certain amount of truth in such arguments, but as a whole the picture is scarcely as gloomy as it may seem at first glance, and it is not only the military-industrial complex which is "guilty" of the situation which has taken shape.

By virtue of a whole series of historical, economic, and geopolitical factors, the region which encompasses the Persian Gulf and the littoral states and those in the immediate vicinity of the gulf has taken shape as a very rich region which is consequently an extremely advantageous customer on the world arms market.

However paradoxical it may seem, the main suppliers of weapons to the region have been and remain the permanent members of the Security Council. The astronomical profits running to tens of billions of dollars received in exchange for tanks, aircraft, ships, missiles, and so forth obviously do not promote a sober approach toward the prospects, if not of disarmament then at least of the limitation of arms supplies to the Near and Middle East. Slow-moving talks between the great powers on the transparency of arms exports to this region and on the creation of a unified compulsory register have been dragging on for several years now. The thrust of the problem was expressed frankly by U.S. Senator John Glenn, noting that if the Persian Gulf countries are seeking to buy defense goods, there is no reason for U.S. firms not to take part in the trading.

What interests the main clients, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Iraq? Virtually everything: armored vehicles, artillery systems, aircraft and helicopters, combat craft, frigates, submarines, electronics, communications, control, and reconnaissance systems. Are Russia's chances of getting a share of the common "pie" that great? After all because primarily of reasons of a political nature we should not yet count on our country's traditional clients.

As for the tactical-technical characteristics of Russian arms as a rule they are not inferior to and sometimes even surpass the parameters of similar systems produced in the West. Here one can cite the T-72 and T-80, the BMP-2 and BMP-3, the BTR-80, the "Uragan" multiple rocket launcher, the S-300, the Su-25, the Su-27, the MIG-29, the Ka-50... From the viewpoint of cost our arms also win out: The T-72S planned for export will cost customers $1.2 million each, half the price of an "Abrams," for instance. It is almost 2.5 times cheaper to buy a BMP-3, with superior indicators to the American "Bradley."

So what compelled the United Arab Emirates military department to buy French "Leclercs" and the Saudis to give their preference to U.S. "Abrams" and British "Tornados?" Not least is the supplier's reputation as a reliable partner who will not let people down in supplying spare parts and equipments or organizing servicing and when necessary medium and capital repair. With our hands on our hearts, do we fully meet these requirements—at world level? The standard there is high, after all. Even for quantitative indicators. For just one contract, for the delivery of Tornados to Saudi Arabia, about 100 representatives of the British Defense Ministry and 3,500 (!) specialists from British Aerospace are working permanently in that country. To ensure the efficiency of electronic equipment delivered to the Saudis—and consequently the firm's prestige—the French firm "Thomson CSF" takes on the expense of maintaining 600 of its foremen in the remote Arab country.

That should not be forgotten, particularly in conditions when it is known that the United Arab Emirates intends to spend up to $700 million in the next two to three years on organizing its own air defense and purchasing sophisticated air defense missile complexes. And our S-300V complexes interest them. Just as the Russian BMP-3 armored personnel carriers and "Uragan" systems and Ka-50 helicopters have intrigued the military in the Gulf.

And another thing. Neither the British nor the French nor the Chinese defense industry workers despair in conditions in which their American counterparts have laid their hands on nearly half the market in the region. They fight persistently, almost ferociously, for every contract—for a few cutters or frigates, for a few thousand rounds of ammunition. After all, each contract of this kind means millions, if not billions, in profits, means jobs at defense enterprises at home, prestige for the state which has modern technologies and a high standard and skills in production.

'Source' Claims Moscow Will Agree to Sanctions Against Libya

PM2610201593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Moscow Has Rejoined Security Council Partners"]

[Text] Last week Russia promised to use its veto if a resolution on tightening sanctions against Libya was submitted for examination by the UN Security Council. IZVESTIYA has learned from an informed source that the resolution will probably be adopted after all at the end of next week—with Moscow's acquiescence.

The Kremlin justified the use of its right of veto as follows: The draft document was formulated in secret by the United States, Britain, and France without taking Russian interests into account. Russia is demanding that Tripoli repay debts that were accumulated back in the Soviet era. In the opinion of Russian representatives, the proposal contained in the document to freeze all Libyan assets with the exception of current income derived from oil exports basically deprived al-Qadhdhafi of the opportunity to repay old debts.

According to the informed diplomat, an understanding that Russia would participate in the finalization of the resolution was reached surprisingly quickly during talks between Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher. "The West is keen to adopt the document as soon as possible, and therefore the threatened use of our veto produced the required effect," our interlocutor said. "The secretary of state was also acting on behalf of London and Paris, who entrusted him with resolving the dispute with Moscow."

Without going into the details of the Russian addenda to the resolution, the diplomat nevertheless noted: "It cannot be ruled out that our interests will be better protected if sanctions are made even tougher than was envisaged in the original draft." He also acknowledged that Libya's debt to Russia does not exceed $2.5-3 billion. "The figure of 7 billion being bandied about by the press is significantly overstated," the diplomat believes.

He agreed that there is little likelihood of the Libyan debt being recovered quickly, but he categorically rejected the option of writing it off for good. The expert no less resolutely rejected rumors that the decision to use the veto was made under pressure from Russia's generals. "At least in this case all the responsibility lies squarely with the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations," he stated.

Political Issues

New Deputy Secretary of Security Council Appointed

LD2610160393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] On instructions from President Yeltsin, 56-year-old Doctor of Economics Aleksandr Troshin was appointed deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council on Tuesday [26 October].

A graduate of the engineering and economics department of Moscow's Aviation Institute, Troshin held leading posts on the State Committees on Planning of the former USSR and the Russian Federation. Until now he has served as first deputy minister of economics.

His wife is a candidate in economics and his two grown sons are computer technology specialists.

Troshin said in an exclusive interview with Interfax that his strong point is the regional policy of those economic structures he used to work for. His joining the Security Council as deputy to Oleg Lobov, a man he "knows well and values as a professional," was prompted largely by the desire to draft for the country's top-level officials materials that would help them strengthen cooperation between the regions and the center on democratic foundations, and take steps against the centrifugal trends growing in the Russian Federation.

What he wants in his new post is to be allowed to work professionally without hindrance and without being bothered by trifles. Otherwise, Troshin said, he will simply leave the government and return to his beloved research.

The recent presidential decree provides for adding two deputy positions to the secretary of Russia's Security Council, one of which was filled by Aleksandr Troshin.

Security Council Seeking To Expand Premises, Influence

MK2610145193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 3

[Mikhail Lashch report under "Russian Security Council Changes Its Address" rubric: "Oleg Lobov Starts Making Preparations To Move"]

[Text] The day-to-day activity of the Russian Security Council has until recently been off limits for the press. It was known only that the president regularly summons Council sessions that make decisions on the most comprehensive questions and that the Council apparatus prepares recommendations for the top echelon of power. KOMMERSANT-DAILY's editorial office has come by a draft presidential edict, prepared yesterday in the Council apparatus, on the Security Council's upcoming movement to the building that is now occupied by the State Legal Directorate under the Russian president.

When the Council was formed, its first secretary Yuriy Skokov and his small apparatus worked in the first Kremlin office building. Location in the Kremlin on one hand allowed Skokov to meet regularly with the president, but on the other, imposed limitations on the size of the Council apparatus. One of Yuriy Skokov's last services was moving the Security Council last February into a separate building at 5-A Varvarka Street where Stanislav Shatalin's Reform foundation was housed earlier. A separate building allowed Skokov to increase the number of officers sharply. Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, who replaced Yuriy Skokov as Council secretary, according to KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondents, made do with a very small and modestly furnished office and made no attempts to ask the top leadership to provide the Council apparatus with more comfortable premises.

New Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov, accustomed to posh digs, has begun his activity not with revising the apparatus structure (like his predecessor Marshal Shaposhnikov) but by making demands for new premises to be allotted to the Council on the Staraya Ploshchad compound. "Recently Lobov's political activity has been aimed at grabbing the maximum amount of premises for his apparatus," an officer in the presidential administration pointed out in a conversation with KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent. The new secretary's interest in expanding the service premises may be due to Oleg Lobov's intention to turn the Council from an advisory body into a powerful structure whose main task will be to oversee the power departments. If Lobov's organization is included in the new Constitution, with time it will inevitably start to compete with the presidential administration for the right to be the president's political brain.

As a result, amid strict confidentiality the Council apparatus prepared a draft presidential edict "On Ensuring the Activity of the Security Council Apparatus," placing at the Council's disposal premises in the following address: Ilinka 8, building 4 (entrance 20) which is still occupied by the president's State Legal Directorate. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY's analysts, the president's participation in the distribution of premises may rather negatively affect the political image both of the president himself and of his entourage, which accounts for the draft's confidentiality.

Furthermore, the political motivation behind the upcoming edict may also be that the eviction of the State Legal Directorate is related to the fundamental disagreement of its head, Aleksandr Kotenkov, with a number of presidential decisions that he regards as legally improper (KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote about that last Tuesday). On the other hand, pressure on the State Legal Directorate may be attributed to the affiliation of its chief Aleksandr Kotenkov and his deputy Anatoliy Sliva with Sergey Shakhray's party, which is opposed in the presidential administration by a wing under Sergey Filatov.

Sobchak Comments on Draft Constitution

LD2610123393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0430 GMT 26 Oct 93

[BY ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomicheva]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 26 Oct—"The Public Chamber of the Constitutional Conference has examined three main issues: the elections, the referendum, and the drafting of a new constitution," Anatoliy Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg and chairman of the public consultation chamber for drafting a new constitution, said in an interview he gave to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "On the first two of these issues it has adopted and sent to the Russian president its recommendations with regard to the way we believe the upcoming elections should be held and their democratic nature ensured. In particular, it was decided to set up a public council under the Central Electoral Commission, which is to be made up of participants in the Constitutional Conference, who are to make sure the elections are conducted democratically.

According to Anatoliy Sobchak, it was recommended that the president put to a nationwide poll the draft constitution as a whole, which is to be published in its final version no later than 12 November. In Sobchak's view, the main alterations or amendments introduced in the draft constitution amount to the elimination of the compromises made at the time of a severe conflict between the Supreme Soviet and the executive.

Anatoliy Sobchak said that virtually all members of the Public Chamber had demanded a revision of the article in the Constitution that says that all the republics within the Russian Federation are sovereign states. "In the new situation we ought to ask ourselves if the federation can be made up of constituent part enjoying equal rights, and there should not be any compromises here, no one should have any privileges over other constituent parts," he stressed.

Another important provision of the draft constitution, according to the mayor of St. Petersburg, concerns the correlation of functions of the president, the parliament and the government. "Our aim is to make parliament the guarantor of democracy in society and the source of legislation; to make the president the head of state and the guarantor of the progress of reforms; and to make the government find its own place in organizing reforms and implementing the adopted legislation." At the same time, all branches of authority have to be independent and complement each other, Anatoliy Sobchak believes.

In view of the dissolution of local soviets in villages and rayons, the issue of local self-government will have to be tackled. Anatoliy Sobchak believes there is no point in reverting to some kind of elected power structures; what is needed is to consider a definitive reform of the power of soviets to replace them with normal democratic municipal structures. Thus, in Russia's cities there should be city dumas, in oblasts and krays - oblast and kray assemblies, in autonomous entities - national assemblies or councils.

"If in the upcoming elections voters turn down this draft constitution, there will be only one solution, that is to elect a Constituent Assembly that would then adopt a new constitution," Anatoliy Sobchak said.

Filatov's Role in Constitutional Conference Assessed

PM2610165193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 5

[Article by Leonid Nikitinskiy: "Who's the Head Chef in the Constitutional Kitchen?"]

[Text] If we were to set out to describe what happened 23 October at the session of the Constitutional Conference Public Chamber in the Kremlin in a satirical style, we could begin as follows: "The tone in the marble hall was set by the league for popular music." Such a representative was indeed present there and confidently came out with extremely naive clarifications (mind you, professors of constitutional law are probably just as ignorant about musical notation), but in reality this additional detail did not crucially change the rather serious picture of the discussion. Nevertheless, the ghost of a question that was never asked—"Why exactly have we assembled here?"—hovered constantly over the audience like a little cloud.

No matter how logically, emotionally, and cogently the members of the Constitutional Conference uphold their view, it nevertheless is purely in the nature of a recommendation so far as the president is concerned. What importance will these recommendations have for Boris Yeltsin? Maybe crucial importance, but maybe none at all. Moreover, although on Saturday we saw Anatoliy Sobchak, Vladimir Shumeyko, Nikolay Ryabov, and Yuriy Yarov in the presidium of the Public Chamber and many figures with real political influence also turningup in the hall, we will clearly encounter the main leaders of the electoral alliances who head the bloc lists at the upcoming session not of the Constitutional Conference Public Chamber, but of the State Chamber, since they are almost all state figures: ministers, premiers, and vice premiers.

1. Deputies' Seats and Ministerial Portfolios

While awaiting this second act, the Public Chamber had a heated—although rather reminiscent of footling "popular music"—discussion of the problem of combining deputies' seats in the future State Duma with portfolios in the future government. They came up with, in my view, quite a precise, competent, and witty way of solving it.

After noting that, in their view, this combination runs counter to a number of basic constitutional principles, including above all the principle of the separation of

powers, the members of the Public Chamber nevertheless agreed that the prerogative of finally deciding this question would belong to the Federal Assembly itself. At the same time, holding a post in the present government cannot restrict anyone from exercising his electoral rights in either passive (participation in election campaigning and voting) or active (running as a candidate himself) form.

A formula obliging ministers to lay down their official duties and powers for the duration if they take part in the election campaign almost won in the straw poll. A similar mechanism was originally contained in the draft Statute on Elections to the State Duma elaborated by Sheynis' group. Under the ratified statute anyone actively joining in the election campaign remains able to obtain paid leave for this period, the cost being paid from a special budget fund.

Clearly, the suspension in one form or another of the official powers of ministers joining in the election campaign would be the ideal solution, but it is scarcely realistic in the historical circumstances. Since virtually the entire government has announced its intention of running for the State Duma on the lists of various blocs, the suspension of powers would mean that throughout the time until the election results were announced the country would remain without a government, or with an understudy government, which is too risky for everybody. So ministers, if the president agrees with the opinion of the Constitutional Conference (and why should he not do so in this instance?), will take part in the election campaign while simultaneously carrying out their main official duties.

But how in that case can we ensure equal rights for the candidates in the elections, leveling out the advantages that the present ministers gain by virtue of their official position? Central Electoral Commission Chairman Ryabov informed the meeting that a Statute on the Procedure for the Use of State Mass News Media During the Period of the Election Campaign which will attempt to juridically equalize candidates' opportunities at least with regard to the use of the special programs produced by state radio and television editorial offices is being prepared and will be published shortly.

However, the question of effective advantages clearly has no legal solution.

It has to be noted that the view expressed by the Constitutional Conference Public Chamber regarding ministers' participation in the election campaign and, even more, regarding the future combination of deputies' seats and ministerial portfolios, because of a certain vested interest, will clearly differ from the view of the State Chamber, which will meet in the middle or toward the end of this week.

It is assumed that this process will culminate in a joint plenary session of the chambers. However, it can be forecast that the State and Public Chambers will find it difficult and barely possible to elaborate a common position on a whole series of contentious issues concerning both the election campaign and the future constitutional structure of Russia. The Constitutional Conference working commission headed by Sergey Filatov will come to the fore in these conditions and will attempt to agree the chambers' positions, but it may also play on their disagreements in its own game.

2. Points On Which We Will Have To Vote "Blind"

The date of the elections is approaching inexorably, but neither the active participants in the election campaign nor, to a still greater extent, we the voters yet have a clear idea of who is being elected to what, for what purpose, and according to what rules. In the prevailing circumstances, in supporting the holding of elections 12 December despite everything, we are choosing only the lesser of two evils, in this way cutting off the road leading Russia to totalitarianism by the shortest route, but we must at the same time note that it scarcely appears possible to hold a proper election campaign. This stems primarily not from the ban on some parties and movements, which discredited themselves as initiators of the October bloodshed, but from the fact that the constant changes in the rules according to which the elections are being held each time postpone, as it were, the start of the official election campaign and make its time frame increasingly tight.

We simply cannot obtain answers to some questions which must be answered if voting is not to be "blind" to a considerable extent. I need only point out that the desire of present government members to run for the State Duma at all costs looks totally different according to whether it is possible in the future to combine government posts with membership of the parliamentary chamber or not, and the same goes for the rule that the winner of an election "heat" is entitled to give up his prize (for instance, in exchange for a ministerial portfolio) to the next person on the electoral bloc's list.

An equally important question that must be answered otherwise it will be difficult to vote intelligently 12 December is the question of who under the new constitution will approve the head of government and the membership of the cabinet: the president or parliament. Addressing the Constitutional Conference Public Chamber Saturday, Sergey Filatov, who accompanied his address with the remark that this is rather a formalistic issue, proposed changing the wording of Articles 111 and 116 of the draft approved in July, which "merely" resolve the question of who appoints the government and the premier and who is entitled to demand their resignation and according to what procedure.

In fact this "formalistic question" determines Russia's future state system with regard to whether it opts for a parliamentary or a presidential republic. We will not go into the essence of the matter at the moment and attempt to decide which option is the best. In fact Filatov may be right, indeed, in my view he probably is. However, the

form of presentation, the railroading through of an issue of prime importance in the guise of a trivial issue is bound to evoke some wariness. Especially as we know the experience of the behind-the-scenes amendment of the statutes on elections prepared by Sheynis' group.

Who do they take them for, the people meeting under the umbrella of the Constitutional Conference Public Chamber, if they suppose that they will automatically rubber-stamp, like a negligent quality control department, both proposals aimed at altering Russia's future state system and a series of other equally important amendments concerning problems of federative relations inside the Russian Federation? By this game of "keep them in the dark" like foolish schoolboys, Filatov is clearly demonstrating his attitude toward the Public Chamber's "consultative" opinion, but the next filter will be the Constitutional Conference State Chamber. And although its opinion de jure will be similarly and no more in the way of a recommendation so far as the president is concerned, de facto the people who will assemble there are ministers who control real levers of power and regional leaders who are capable of responding to such conjuring tricks by organizing strikes or else simply by wrecking the future elections and referendum at local level.

3. Who Will Be the Real "Father" of the Russian Constitution?

The method of adopting the constitution via a referendum has both considerable pros regarding the legitimacy of the result and considerable cons. These will find expression in the fact that the overwhelming majority of voters will be unable to grasp the subtleties of the complex juridical text by 12 December or else will not have time to do so and will essentially merely rubber-stamp the proposed version on the basis of their sympathies for the person in whose name that version is being put forward. The resultant risk of error is perhaps not so large as it is irretrievable. In fact as early as 10 November, as soon as the text of the future constitution is published in the form of proposals for the referendum, it will be impossible to correct anything in it, and furthermore it will be pointless to discuss it: You don't brandish your fists after a fight.

Minimizing this risk, attempting to identify and remove contradictions before rather than after the adoption of the new constitution, and saving the future Federal Assembly from the threat of immediately getting bogged down and stuck rewriting the constitution just approved by the referendum—these are the tasks that the Constitutional Conference is called upon to resolve with its "consultative vote." However, the "recommendatory force" of the two chambers' recommendations is unequal once you factor in their membership. The Constitutional Conference working commission, whose current membership is not entirely clear to the participants in the conference, is permitting itself to act as a third, separate, albeit also supposedly "consultative" body. Finally, Sergey Filatov, the chairman of this cunning commission, also represents a kind of very special organ operating independently of the commission itself.

At any rate the "fateful"—quite seriously, that is the only way to describe it—proposal for a change in the wording of Articles 11 and 116 of the draft constitution was not voiced by the participants in the Constitutional Conference, and the working commission, so far as I was able to ascertain, adopted no formal decision on it. Evidently Filatov, who has effectively gone far beyond the bounds of the role of humble leader of the president's apparatus, will be the final person to place before the president the draft that will be published the next morning over his signature, with minimal amendments or without any at all, as the constitution referred to the referendum.

If so, then next year we will begin living under a constitution which "legally" will rightly be called the Yeltsin constitution, but by the right of primogeniture will be Filatov's. It may be the best possible, optimum, wonderful constitution—if we are lucky, because nobody can actually say with 100-percent certainty how it is better. We have nothing against Filatov as the author of the future constitution aside from the fact that he is writing it somewhere out of sight, virtually underground, at his own risk.

Clearly somewhere there are other similar rival authors who are considering when to stand in line outside the door of the president's office some time closer to the night of 10 November. Their versions may be better, or they may be worse, although within the framework of each one each author is counting on a worthy place for himself. But in this case it is pointless to show us pictures of the Constitutional Conference on television and to try to convince voters that it is here that the true sacrament of constitutional creation is taking place. Let the person who is vouchsafed the honor of being the true father of our new constitution honestly and openly—not hiding behind the back of Yeltsin or the Constitutional Conference—assume full responsibility for what this child born in public but conceived in secret may do in the future.

Documents on Legislative Proposals Commission Published

PM2710101793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 4

["Directive of the President of the Russian Federation" signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated 22 October 1993; accompanied by "Statute on the Legislative Proposals Commission Under the President of the Russian Federation"]

[Text] "Directive of the President of the Russian Federation"

In accordance with the Russian Federation President's Edict No. 1457 "On the Formation of the Legislative Proposals Commission Under the President of the Russian Federation," dated 26 September 1993:

1. To confirm the appended Statute on the Legislative Proposals Commission Under the President of the Russian Federation (hereinafter—the Commission).

2. To provide for financing of the Commission's activity within the expenditure estimate of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.

To fix the membership of permanent Commission staff at 35.

3. To establish that the overall strength and composition of the Commission is confirmed by the chairman of the Commission in agreement with the leader of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.

The following may belong to the Commission: people's deputies of the Russian Federation of the 1990-1995 convocation; representatives of organs of state authority of constituent republics of the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblasts, autonomous okrugs, the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, political parties, and public associations; commodity producers; and entrepreneurs.

4. To form within the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation a department of 35 staff to provide legal backup for the Commission's work.

The leader of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation is to appoint the chief of the aforementioned department on the recommendation of the chairman of the Commission.

5. Responsibility for providing transport, consumer, and medical services to permanent Commission staffers is vested in the relevant subunits of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation

[Dated] 22 October 1993

Directive No. 699

"Statute on the Legislative Proposals Commission Under the President of the Russian Federation"

1. The Legislative Proposals Commission under the President of the Russian Federation (hereinafter—the Commission), which operates on the basis of Edict No. 1457 of the president of the Russian Federation, dated 26 September 1993, carries out the preparation of draft normative acts proposed to the president of the Russian Federation for submission to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for its examination in accordance with Edict No. 1598 of the president of the Russian Federation dated 7 October 1993 "On Legal Regulation in the Period of Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation."

2. The Commission's basic tasks are:

a. preparing normative acts on questions concerned with ensuring the activity of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;

b. finalizing draft normative acts which passed their first reading in the former Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and which are under examination by committees and standing commissions of the chambers of the former Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

3. To carry out its tasks the Commission has the right:

to propose draft normative acts to the president of the Russian Federation for submission as laws of the Russian Federation to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for its examination;

to obtain requisite documentation and information from state organs, organizations, and establishments;

to enlist specialists and academics to take part in the preparation of draft normative acts;

to send draft normative acts prepared by the Commission to the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation for expert appraisal.

4. Leadership of the activity of the Commission is to be carried out by the chairman of the Commission.

The chairman of the Commission:

convenes and conducts sessions of the Commission;

confirms the deputy chairmen and secretaries of the Commission and sets their duties;

determines the members of the Commission employed on a permament basis;

forms working groups and designates their leaders;

concludes agreements with scientific establishments and organizations for the implementation of work essential for the execution of the Commission's tasks.

5. The Commission's decisions are adopted by a simple majority of votes by the Commission members present.

The decisions of the Commission are recorded in a protocol and signed by the chairman of the Commission or—in his absence—by a deputy chairman of the Commission.

Government Leaders' Activities, Edicts Reported

PM2610135593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Executive Power Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Conferences, Meetings, Trips**

Russian Government Head Viktor Chernomyrdin held a conference with his deputies yesterday. A broad range of economic and financial questions was discussed.

Yesterday afternoon, First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar took part in a meeting between the president and his representatives in the localities.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets held a conference on questions pertaining to the restoration of the Kama Truck Plant. In the afternoon Oleg Soskovets met with Mr. Emerson, EC Commission ambassador to Russia.

Following the government head's conference, First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko attended to resolving routine questions in the Russian Ministry of Information and the Press.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov returned from Finland, where he had held talks on the question of attracting investment for the activity of joint ventures in Russia. He took part in the conference chaired by the head of the government, and then attended to routine problems in the Russian Ministry of Finance.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays is on leave until 1 November.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin left for Brussels, where he will hold talks with representatives of the EC Commission on concluding a treaty on partnership.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha met with the principal of the Higher School of Agro-Industrial Complex Management and Agricultural Business. In the afternoon he held a meeting with the leadership of the "Promteplitsa" Greenhouse Plant.

After the premier's conference, Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov convened a sitting of the Commission for Preparing To Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Leningrad. Later he held two further conferences—the first with leaders of ministries and departments within the ecological sphere, and the second with the leadership of departments in the social sphere. [passage omitted]

Documents

A directive issued by Boris Yeltsin ratified the statute on the Russian Federation Presidential Commission for Legislative Initiatives. This commission's basic tasks are to prepare normative acts on questions of safeguarding the activity of the Federal Assembly, and to complete the draft normative acts given their first reading by the former Supreme Soviet.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an edict "On Support for Measures by the Moscow Government and the Moscow Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies on Reforming Organs of State Power and Organs of Local Self-Government in Moscow and Moscow Oblast."

By edict of the president, a number of documents were approved expounding the basis principles of forming, and organizing the work of, representative organs of state power in Moscow and Moscow Oblast and, by way of an experiment, organs of local self-government in Moscow Oblast for the transition period. Elections for new representative organs of power in Moscow and Moscow Oblast will be held 12 December 1993.

The Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property issued a directive "On Submitting Accounts When Holding Specialized Check Auctions." Under this document, control over the procedure for circulating and redeeming privatization checks exchanged for shares in a privatized enterprise at check auctions is tightened up.

Personnel

Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed Vasiliy Vasilyevich Barchuk chairman of the Russian Federation Pension Fund Board. The edict on the appointment was signed yesterday.

Conflicts

By edict of the Russian Federation president, the powers of Chelyabinsk Oblast Administration Head V. Solovyev were confirmed. This is in connection with attempts by certain individuals to set up parallel structures of executive power and to remove the legitimate head of the administration.

Despite the complex political situation and the open opposition by the oblast soviet, the Chelyabinsk Oblast Administration, according to its Head Vadim Solovyev, has managed to preserve a stable situation and to guarantee the continued progress of reforms. He announced that the edict on confirming the powers of the administration head signed by the Russian president has given it a legal basis for completing the process of desovietization in the oblast.

Vadim Solovyev noted that in Chelyabinsk Oblast, which ranks first in Russia for denationalization and privatization, it is the soviets who are trying to impede this important process of reform. "Moreover," he noted, "the local oblast soviet did everything to support the former Supreme Soviet leadership during the putsch sparked in Moscow. And it is the leaders of this structure in the oblast center and in the localities who have made efforts to usurp executive power."

Future of Constitutional Court Debated

MK2610152193 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 2

[Konstantin Katanyan report: "Outside Politics"]

[Text] The Constitutional Court should operate as an independent body that exercises supervision over compliance with the Fundamental Law, and the court's makeup should be expanded so that judges appointed by the president and the parliament on a parity basis could promptly consider numerous appeals and petitions addressed to the Constitutional Court by forming a number of colleges. This is the opinion accepted by most prominent Russian legal students who, in accordance

with an edict by the Russian Federation president, discussed possible options for the future of the Constitutional Court at an expanded meeting of the scientific-consultative council.

The speakers pointed out that the troubles of the Constitutional Court began when the court proved unable to distance itself from current political events. Decisions were made in a hurry, which caused not only violations of the rules of procedure, but also dissatisfaction of a number of judges. As a result, recently the Constitutional Court's prestige began to sag, which is what gave grounds to raise the question of whether it is needed at all.

As a matter of fact, the current Law on the Constitutional Court does not allow its judges to take part in any political actions. This reason was cited by former Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin in his statement giving reasons for his refusal to run for the new Russian parliament.

Konstantinov Charged for Role in Uprising

LD2610225893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1936 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] One of the leaders of the armed uprising in Moscow in early October, former head of the National Salvation Front Ilya Konstantinov, has been presented the counts of indictment based on article 79 of the Russian Criminal Code (mass disorder—IF).

The Prosecutor General's press office told Interfax that Konstantinov is charged with organizing mass disorder accompanied by pogroms, arsons, destruction of property and other similar actions. As for the sentence, the article provides for 2 to 15 years' imprisonment.

The prosecutor's office decided to keep Konstantinov in custody until his case is heard.

Up to now, the prosecutor's dedicated group investigating the mass disorder in Moscow on October 3-4 has presented counts of indictment to 20 leaders of the uprising, including Khasbulatov, Rutskoy, Barannikov, Dunayev, Achalov, Makashov, Anpilov and others, charging them with organizing and participating in mass disorder.

Prosecutor Expects To Complete Rutskoy Case

PM2610152093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 6

[Igor Andreyev report incorporating remarks by Moscow Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev: "Moscow Prosecutor Intends To Bring Rutskoy Foreign Currency 'Case' to a Legal Conclusion"]

[Excerpts] "If the assertion made by members of the Interdepartmental Commission for Combating Crime and Corruption regarding A. Rutskoy's connection with an account in a Swiss bank is confirmed by investigation, the materials will be handed over to the General Prosecutor's Office and will become part of the case concerning the ex-vice president's participation in the October rebellion." That is the view of Moscow Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev concerning the future of the investigation that began with the August scandal when the Interdepartmental Commission publicly accused the second figure in the state of machinations involving millions of dollars. [passage omitted]

The investigation into the Rutskoy foreign currency "case" could, G. Ponomarev believes, lead to the following results. First—that the ex-vice president's connection with the account at the Indosuez Bank is confirmed. Alas, the inquiry by diplomatic channels, which we carried out via the General Prosecutor's Office, the Russian Foreign Ministry, and the Swiss Foreign Ministry, has yet to be answered. The bank is in no hurry to lift secrecy from the account named by the Interdepartmental Commission.

Second—that the then political situation played an evil trick on the Interdepartmental Commission, and it obtained information of the kind that was wanted for opportunistic reasons. In presenting unsubstantiated materials to the prosecutor's office, the commission members were mistaken, but sincere. Third possibility—the originators of the "case" had no illusions about the authenticity of the documents, and deliberately initiated a campaign to discredit A. Rutskoy...

At present, G. Ponomarev asserts, the outcome of the investigation could equally well be any one of these three. Neither the additional documents made available by Rutskoy's team in September, nor the materials brought by A. Makarov and A. Ilyushenko from Canada, give either side the advantage. The main drawback to these materials is that they were not obtained by proper procedural routes and cannot be regarded as reliable, fully authenticated evidence.

As for authenticating the documents on the spot, according to the Moscow prosecutor, a trip to Canada by the investigators is still in doubt. The point is that the only possibility of doing the job in that country is to make use of the official channel of interstate legal assistance: via the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Long discussions with the MVD, G. Ponomarev says, ended in a refusal by Minister V. Yerin to give the prosecutor's office that opportunity. Gennadiy Semenovich was told by Yerin's apparatus (the Moscow prosecutor was unable to reach the minister himself even on the so-called No. 2 government line) that this is because such intensive use of ministerial links with Canadian colleagues is not considered expedient.

All the same, G. Ponomarev expects to bring to a conclusion the foreign currency "case" of Rutskoy and the others who figure in the Interdepartmental Commission's documents. The Moscow Prosecutor's Office is working in contact with the investigations commission

which is investigating the October events. There is still time, in Gennadiy Semenovich's view, beauase, despite upbeat statements on completing the investigation of the rebellion very quickly, there is a great deal of work there.

Official Gives Briefing on Criminal Gangs

LD2610142093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—"Armed gangs are especially dangerous these days," said Major-General Gennadiy Chebotarev, first deputy head of the chief administration on organised crime of the Russian Interior Ministry at a briefing in the ministry on Tuesday [26 October].

"In committing their crimes, they display extreme aggressiveness and cruelty both against their victims and witnesses of crimes," he stressed.

In the general's opinion, there are several thousand gangs in the country, including those with international ties. Many are well armed. According to militia statistics, the number of armed crimes rose 300 per cent in 1993 as against last year.

Militia seizes more often advanced firearms, grenade launchers, means of communications and of individual defence during operations against mobs.

Gangs stepped up struggle for spheres of influence and revenues from criminal activities. Law enforcement bodies registered 197 shootouts during the first six months of this year, in which 32 people were killed and 88 wounded. The number of "contract murders" stands at 21.

Law enforcement bodies are hunting down criminal gangs. They exposed 6,000 crimes and arrested nearly 4,500 mobsters. Over 800 of the total, including 144 ringleaders, were convicted. More than 22 million roubles, nearly two million U.S. dollars and a considerable number of valuables were seized from criminals.

However, Chebotarev stressed, gangs of a new type appear. They outgrow from security services and commercial firms.

They do not guard other firms but are engaged in economic intelligence, quashing their competitors with the use of arms and explosives. Such actions, in the opinion of briefing participants, necessitate immediate improvement of law enforcement practices in the struggle against organised crime.

This is the task of not only the Interior Ministry but also of all law enforcement departments, above all the Russian procurator-general's office.

FITUR To Hold Congress, Change Name

MK2610151393 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 2

[Indira Dunayeva report under the "Trade Unions" rubric: "FITUR To Turn Into All-Russian Labor Confederation"]

[Text] The day after tomorrow, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] will hold its congress to formalize its new name—the All-Russian Labor Confederation. Mikhail Shmakov, chairman of the Moscow Trade Union Federation, said at a press conference yesterday that in effect the trade unions already are operating on a confederative basis. From now on FITUR will not be guided by the principle of democratic centralism, and each branch or regional trade union that is part of it will have its own charter.

Thus, the trade unions, which have evolved from the unitarian All-Union Central Trade Union Council to a federative association, are moving toward an even greater decentralization. In addition, the congress will consider matters regarding trade union activity in the new conditions: At a time when more and more enterprises are converted into joint-stock companies, it is essential to work out a mechanism for protecting the interests of workers employed by nongovernment businesses.

As for the transfer of the administration of the Social Insurance Fund, FITUR will continue to have decisive influence on the fund's activity, Shmakov said. For instance, the fund's employees will be retained upon agreement with the trade unions. Shmakov hopes that the trade unions' involvement in the operation of the fund will not allow the government to use it to mend holes in the budget (which was the case with the Pension Fund, which was handed over to the executive authorities after the abolition of the legislative authorities in Russia).

According to Shmakov, the trade unions will not give their backing to any electoral list as a whole during the election campaign. The Moscow Trade Union Federation, however, will support former Moscow City Council Chairman Nikolay Gonchar's bid for the upper chamber of the new parliament, and Igor Klochkov, chairman of the FITUR council, will run on the Agrarian Bloc's ticket. As for trade union centers that are part of FITUR, it is up to them to decide on backing one political group or another.

Election Issues

Shumeyko Opposes Early Presidential Elections

LD2710102593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1013 GMT 27 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow October 27 TASS—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko opposes the holding of early presidential elections in Russia. "The president of Russia should not be reelected and should serve the full term as the head of state", he told reporters on Wednesday [27 October].

Boris Yeltsin announced early presidential elections on June 12, 1994, six months after early parliamentary elections. His term of office expires in 1986.

Shumeyko has not yet decided whether he would run for parliament himself, but said that he might try to compete for a seat in the upper chamber—the federation council.

Shumeyko, who is also the information minister, said all candidates running for parliament will be given one hour of tv air time in the morning and in the evening for three weeks before elections. He believes the chances of the opposition at the coming polls are high.

The information minister played down the scope of infringements on tne freedom of the press when censorship was introduced after the armed opposition uprising in Moscow.

"In fact, censorship in Moscow-based publications was not introduced", he said, adding that editors-in-chief were recommended by his ministry to introduce "self-censorship".

Dwelling on the suspension of the opposition "PRAVDA" and "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA" newspapers, Shumeyko said that only their editors-in-chief were sacked for "appeals to topple the state authority" while the publications proper were not closed.

Rules for Federal Assembly Discussed

LD2710093593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 27 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow October 27 TASS—"The new Russian parliament will have no speaker," ITAR-TASS was told by Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the legislative proposals commission under the Russian president. The rules of the federal assembly, on which the commission is now working, stipulate that the new parliament will have two independent, fully autonomous chambers—the state duma and the council of the federation. Each one will be headed by a chairman, but there will be no "common boss" over them. A conciliatory commission will apparently be formed to ensure proper interaction between the two chambers.

Mityukov, who was a member of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has now been included in the list of candidates to the state duma from the "Russia's Choice" bloc. He stressed that a special sector was set up within the commission to draw up legislative acts, ensuring the proper functioning of the federal assembly. Three regulations are expected to be elaborated—for the state duma, for the council of the federation, and for holding joint meetings of the two chambers. Special documents are needed to establish the range of competence of the two houses, to set up and ensure the proper functioning of parliamentary committees, commissions, and factions, to fix the role that is to be played by the chairmen of the two chambers. The latter boils down merely to the administration of sessions and observance of the order of the day.

"In order to preclude the ambitions of this or that leader to rival the government, the functions of ensuring the material well-being of deputies will apparently be entrusted to special officials appointed by each chamber, or by a committee specially set up for this purpose," mityukov stressed. And, of course, procedures for adopting laws in the state duma and for the discussion of various documents, coming up from the lower chamber to the upper house, are being thrashed out.

"The working version of the federal assembly's rules is all but completed. The commisson's first official meeting will be held within one week from now. It will endorse the plan of bills that are to be drawn up first and foremost. This will round off the organisational period of the commission," its chairman stated.

Council To Monitor Media Access During Campaign

PM2610141793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Focus of Attention"]

[Text] A social council comprising representatives of the Constitutional Conference Public Chamber is to be set up during the period of the preparations for and holding of the elections and referendum. The Public Chamber adopted this decision at its Kremlin session. The social council is to be tasked with "monitoring the provision of equal access to the mass media for electoral blocs and parties and for Federal Assembly candidate deputies, and observing the election procedure at local level in accordance with existing legislation."

Priorities, Image of 'Russia's Choice' Explained

MK2610150093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 4

[Interview with Kirill Ignatyev, executive with Ostankino Television Company, by K. Ilin: "Shall We Vote for Order?"; place and date not given]

[Text] To get a better idea about the Russia's Choice election bloc we decided to turn to political analyst Kirill Ignatyev, who is a senior executive at the Ostankino TV and Radio Company. At the bloc's congress he was an observer and a participant at the same time.

[Ilin] I know that when working in Ostankino you did not participate in political battles, but then you attended Russia's Choice organizing committee sessions and its congress. What does its program promise to the voters?

[Ignatyev] I would like to single out Russia's Choice's most important priorities. Control of inflation, and this means struggle against price rises and for a firmer ruble. Legality. Stability in society and in the power branches. Freedom. More decisive privatization in the interests of the citizens. People's power. This bloc's supporters have firmly upheld the people's right to a referendum, gathered signatures under a petition for private land ownership, and supported nationwide voting on trust in the president and on early elections. And finally, the most important priority—order. In the congress lobby one of the journalists even dubbed Russia's Choice a party of order.

[Ilin] There are members of the present government in the bloc. How will policy change if Russia's Choice wins?

[Ignatyev] It will be much easier to put things in order in various spheres. The present government is not heterogeneous. Sectoral lobbyism is telling—each ministry is concerned about its own interests. The political positions are different—it is not accidental that different ministers have found themselves in different blocs; for example, Vladimir Shumeyko in Russia's Choice and Aleksandr Shokhin in the PRES [Russian Party of Unity and Accord] party. And finally there are more than 100 ministers in the council! Although the general vector of the government is for the reforms, I am sure that a more compact and integrated government will manage to do business more effectively and maintain order—naturally with a strict observance of human rights.

[Ilin] Still, what is the bloc's image?

[Ignatyev] A collective image is emerging: a firm, typical muzhik, who knows what he does, who is unenvious, with a broad Russian soul; not a tyrant, kind, but capable of making correct decisions.

[Ilin] Yet there is also a woman at the top of the Russia's Choice list—Social Security Minister Ella Pamfilova....

[Ignatyev] That is right, and therefore it will be correct to add charm and care about one's neighbor to our image.

[Ilin] Wherein lies the bloc's strength and weakness?

[Ignatyev] It seems to me that its strength lies in unity—after the disputes, but nonetheless it did materialize after all. Well-known politicians, the mass movement Democratic Russia, AKKOR [Association of Russian Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives], and regional organizations are firmly united.

And another thing: this bloc has a special moral image. It includes well-known human right activists—Sergey Adamovich Kovalev and Gleb Pavlovich Yakunin. People of outstanding integrity. It was not accidental that at the congress, well before candidates to the Duma were nominated, Russia's Choice adopted an Ethics Code for the participants in the election campaign.

The weakness of this bloc is in its young age. It has just emerged. "Growth problems" are inevitable.

[Ilin] Now I am going to ask an awkward question. The opponents of Russia's Choice rebuke the president and the bloc over the fact that government members are taking part in the elections....

[Ignatyev] I believe that the practice in which ministers were ousted by Khasbulatov from the parliament is extremely vicious. Hence the instability of power, confrontation between the two power branches, and in fact powerlessness. It is surprising that people, who two weeks ago criticized Khasbulatov for that, today, having come to lead "their own bloc," are beginning to criticize Yeltsin for doing the opposite.

It will be recalled that only five to seven government members are contesting 450 seats in the Duma. To prohibit that, to undermine stability, is unreasonable. Especially given that in all countries where the government, like in our case, is responsible to parliament, a combination of functions is allowed. Take, for instance France, Finland, Germany, Austria, Great Britain.... I do not think that the Unites States' unique example should be copied, especially since legally there is no institution of government. It is important to understand that separation of branches is a separation of powers.

At the same time I am sure that there must be no first- and second-grade ministers, ministers deputies and non-deputies. All ministers, even those elected to the State Duma, must receive one salary and not enjoy any additional deputy privileges or immunity.

[Ilin] How does Russia's Choice differ from the blocs formed by other democrats—Shakhray, Yavlinksiy, and Travkin?

[Ignatyev] Russia's Choice unites people who have consistently opposed the power of the Congress, the "Khasbulatov party." Other blocs include politicians of various trends: Abdulatipov next to Shakhray. Travkin and Yavlinskiy have repeatedly supported the parliament leadership and sought ways for "constructive work" with it.

Finally, Russia's Choice incorporates professional candidates who know market economics—and Russia's today and not yesterday.

'Russia's Choice' Distances Itself From Shakhray's Party

MK2610122993 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 70, 26 Oct 93 (signed to press 25 Oct) p 1

[Yelena Tregubova, Dmitriy Volkov report under the "Bloc" rubric: "'Russia's Choice' Distances Itself From Shakhray's Party, Citing the Latter's Penchant for Government Regulation"]

[Text] Leaders of the "Russia's Choice" bloc made public the final version of their list of candidates to the State Duma at a press conference yesterday. The "federal basket" includes—in order—Yegor Gaydar, Sergey Kovalev, Ella Pamfilova, Anatoliy Chubays, Andrey Kozyrev, Boris Fedorov, Dmitriy Volkogonov, Sergey Filatov, Aleksey Yemelyanov, Mikhail Poltoranin, Pavel Bunich, Andrey Makarov, Gennadiy Burbulis, Boris Zolotukhin, Petr Aven, Aleksey Golovkov, Yuliy Gusman, Arkadiy Murashov, and Sergey Yushenkov. A certain quota has been reserved for the supporters of the bloc from all Russian regions. "Russia's Choice" has scheduled a mass campaign to collect signatures in support of the list for 30 and 31 October. Bloc leaders have said that they plan to cooperate during the election campaign with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's alliance, the Russian Democratic Reform Movement under Anatoliy Sobchak, and the Economic Freedom Party under Konstantin Borovoy.

Arkadiy Murashov said yesterday that, to all appearances, "Russia's Choice" will see Sergey Shakhray's party as an opposition to "the democratic and liberal forces," because recently the deputy prime minister has spoken out for establishing government regulation of the economy and put emphasis on "the Russian idea." Sergey Yushenkov presumed that the "party of the regions" may find a natural ally in Civic Union.

Yet more proof of the growing gap between the radical part of the government and the "conservatives," who set up an electoral association with Sergey Shakhray's help, shows that a stable two-party system is unlikely. Although the PRES [Party for Russian Unity and Accord], by many accounts, enjoys support from some members of the Chernomyrdin cabinet who prefer to act proceeding from "practical"—not radical reform—considerations, this part of the Council of Ministers was closely linked with the radicals during the acute confrontation between the government and the parliament. Suffice it to recall that at the final stage of the struggle against the White House, Oleg Soskovets, who has a reputation of being a "moderate," technically headed the staff for quelling the resistance.

Moreover, the "moderates" at the Council of Ministers are not used to abiding by the laws of open political struggle, and try to gain advantage by behind-the-scenes staff decisions. Of course, they can rely during the elections on the strength of the regional authorities, which are nervous about Vladimir Shumeyko's and Sergey Filatov's plans to back out from the "compromise with the soviets," which was reached during the consideration of the draft constitution. It is hard to imagine, however, that the regional authorities will openly dare to take on the Kremlin as early as during the election campaign. They will rather hope that "economic matters" will be resolved even by a very radical Council of Ministers. In addition, the latest reports show that influential leaders of the autonomous republics are inclined to bet on the customary socialist idea. Viktor Stepanov from Karelia, for instance, tops the list of the Socialist Workers Party. Maybe this is a more far-sighted move than joining the "party of the regions." At any rate, sympathy for socialism, undoubtedly, still lingers among some voters.

Meanwhile, Sergey Shakhray's party will find it very hard to create a counterweight to "Russia's Choice" at the State Duma without coordinated efforts by government officials, however hard his ally, Sergey Stankevich, may try to appeal to the patriots' nostalgia for empire. The patriots have long given their hearts to figures of a different color.

Split in Government During Campaign Assessed

PM2610133193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "Reformers' 'Team' Split Before Elections Because It Was Never Monolithic"]

[Text] With the appearance on Russia's political horizon of two new groupings in the shape of "Russia's Choice" and the Russian Unity and Accord Party, the ideological stratification of the government members has finally become obvious. People well known for their reformist views like Shumeyko, Fedorov, Chubays, Pamfilova, and Kozyrev have gone with Gaydar. They have been joined by Filatov and Kovalev. And Shokhin and Kotenkov have joined Shakhray's party.

The disproportion in the distribution of names attractive to the voters has prompted S. Shakhray to enlist the support of Premier V. Chernomyrdin and his first deputy, O. Soskovets. In a talk with your IZVESTIYA correspondent he stated that the Russian Unity and Accord Party will nominate V. Chernomyrdin as its candidate to the State Duma for Orenburg territorial district. He has had a talk on this subject with the premier and these plans allegedly found "support" with him.

But a high-ranking government representative gave the following explanation on this subject: The premier simply will not run in the elections to the State Duma or Federal Assembly. That some regions or parties may make such proposals is another matter. Nor is it ruled out that "Russia's Choice" and Shakhray's party will nominate the premier to use his political weight for their own party aims.

Nonetheless, what has happened to the team gathered together by the president to implement reforms and seemingly monolithic (let us recall Gaydar's resignation and the intention of the team, including Shakhray, to collectively leave Staraya Square!)? There can be only one explanation: Since the time when the Yeltsin-Gaydar reforms began several groups have gradually formed in the cabinet of ministers. As of today some of the government members are drawn toward the premier, with Gaydar's return the bloc consisting of his old team has become more cohesive, and Shakhray, who has

frequently demonstrated his independence or disagreement on a number of fundamental reform issues, has decided to implement his views through a "conservative" party relying on the regions and preaching the idea of federalism on the basis of consensus.

Actually, S. Shakhray himself has confirmed this. To my question about the split in the president's team he said:

"One cannot speak of a split in the president's team in the direct sense. If the president had officially stated that the 'Russia's Choice' bloc was the president's bloc and he was going to the elections with this bloc alone then the 'dissenters' in the government and other posts would have had nothing left but to join the bloc or resign. The president has in my view chosen the correct position—he will support the entire democratic spectrum of parties without tying himself to personalities like Gaydar or Shakhray."

Nonetheless the paths of some government members have diverged and there is a reason for this. There never was a monolithic team. There was discipline within the team, there was a framework of acceptable differences. After the date of the elections had been announced the government became provisional and differences in views of the changes in Russia played their part in some government members forming "Russia's Choice" and others the Russian Unity and Accord party.

It remains to be added to what S. Shakhray said that "Russia's Choice" and the "conservative party" will hardly vie with each other to the point of self-destruction. In his talk with me Sergey Mikhaylovich stated that no one intends to betray the ideals of democracy and the market which unite the members of the president's team. "We will not allow strife in the democratic wing of political organizations, not to mention confrontation," my interlocutor said. "I personally will do everything to pool our efforts after the elections too. On certain principles we are prepared for a coalition when forming the government."

"Russia's Choice" has approximately the same position. S. Yushenkov, a spokesman for the party's leadership, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent that on the eve of the formation of the two parties there were consultations with a view to uniting. But after three or four days of talks, when it became clear that the sides' positions differed greatly in the tactics for implementing reforms, the need to create a unified bloc disappeared. Nonetheless, at the elections according to the majority system we are prepared for consolidation," he said.

Shakhray Aims To Head State Duma

LD2610131893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1131 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, who has founded the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, said on Tuesday [26 October] he would like to become the chairman of the State Duma (the lower house of the new parliament) and would like Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin remain in his position after elections in December.

At a meeting of the council on industrial policy of the Russian Government, Shakhray announced his plans to run for the speaker and said his party intends to secure "an inheritance of the economic course of the government".

"We intend to support the prime minister and avert a collapse of government structures", he added.

On Monday, another major election bloc, the "Choice of Russia", said it would like to see the architect of Russian reform, Yegor Gaydar, as the prime minister. Gaydar is currently first deputy prime minister.

Shakhray said his party puts its stake on financial and industrial groups, wants to change the privatisation process in Russia and support the small and medium-scale entrepreneurship.

He believes the State Duma is to be reelected after two years and has to adopt basic economic legislation during the time.

Shakhray said that his party, which is to represent regional interests, will work "for the idea of preserving a single Russian state".

Yavlinskiy Announces Creation of New Bloc

LD2610181893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1538 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Noted Russian economist Grigory Yavlinsky announced the creation of a new election bloc which united three political parties and counts to win a 15-30 per cent of votes at the parliamentary elections on December 12.

"The bloc stands for the major values of democracy, freedom and market economy" and "is against explosive measures in economy and politics". Yavlinsky, who had earlier announced he would run for Presidency, told TASS on Tuesday [26 October].

Besides the Republican Party, the Social-Democratic Party and the Russian Christian-Democratic Union, the bloc is headed by former Russian Ambassador to the United States Vladimir Lukin and sociologist Yuriy Boldyrev.

It nominated 213 candidates for elections and Yavlisnky said the bloc may unite with other democratically-oriented forces only in case the communist opposition finds a strong leader capable of securing a victory.

Volskiy Comments on Election Bloc

LD2610150693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—"The 'Civil Union for the Sake of Stability, Fairness and Progress' election bloc is not a successor of the former 'Civic Union' alignment of centrist forces," Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, told a press conference here today.

As a matter of fact, Volskiy himself, and chairman of the "Renovation" [Renewal] union Aleksandr Vladislavlev, still remain leaders of the allegedly new "Civic Union". Their names top the list of the union's nominees, registered on October 25 at the Central Election Committee. The founders of the new union include the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the Association of Russian Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the All-Russia "Renovation" Union, the Russian Social-Democratic Centre, the "War Veterans for Peace" movement, and some trade unions.

Addressing the press conference, Volskiy tried to disassociate himself from former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy by recalling, for safety's sake, that the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs was not a member of the defunct "Civic Union" bloc, and that he himself had walked out of the union early in the year, because he could not tolerate a situation when some of its leaders, particularly Rutskoy, had usurped the right to speak up on behalf of the "Civic Union". It is worth recalling that Volskiy took an active part in the joint press conference of "Civic Union" leaders on the eve of the April 25 referendum.

The president of the Union of Industrialists noted that the founders of the election bloc did not include Rutskoy's Free Russia people's party and that its chairman Vasiliy Lipitsky figured on the list of nominees to the state duma from the new "Civic Union" only as a private person.

Volskiy said that the Agrarian Union, headed by Vasiliy Starodubtsev, now being tried for taking part in the 1991 abortive coup d'etat, was the closest partner of his union in the election campaign. He described this partnership as a "union of the sickle and hammer, a union of agrarians and industrialists". He noted the proximity of the stands of the "Civic Union" election bloc and the Russian Party of Unity and Concord [Accord], headed by Sergey Shakhray, which comes out for "reforms without any shock effects and a controlled national economy".

The list of candidates of the "Civic Union" bloc to the state duma was handed out to journalists during the press conference. It abounds in the names of managers of major Russian enterprises: the "Kamaz" joint-stock society, "the Russia-Saha Diamonds" joint-stock company, the Kirov plant, the "Russian Weapons" corporation, etc. Volskiy made it clear that he expected the names of association directors and presidents to bring the union victory in the elections. He believes their inclusion in the state duma, if the elections were won by the "Civic Union", would make the latter more professional. Mentioned among the nominees were Oleg Rumyantsev, Vladimir Ispravnikov, Kostantin Lubenchenko, and several former members of the USSR parliament.

FRPP To Run as Part of Civic Union

PM2610160093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy: "Former Vice President's Party Going Into Elections as Part of 'Civic Union'"]

[Text] "Free Russia" People's Party [FRPP] leader Vasiliy Lipitskiy held a news conference 25 October. At it he shared with journalists a few thoughts about how the party, which for a long time was headed by the former vice president, intends to work out its new place in society following the events of 3-4 October.

A reassessment of the party's activity, Vasiliy Lipitskiy noted, is a broader question than just assessing the personality of Rutskoy himself. "We strove to introduce into politics compromise solutions that would have made it possible to avoid the events of 3-4 October," he said. "But given that they happened, we are also partly to blame. Our main mistake was that we supported people who urged violence."

The FRPP, whose activity, as is known, was temporarily suspended, intends to go into the elections as part of the "Civic Union" bloc, whose final composition will be announced 26 October. Answering a question about what the party will do if the authorities impose some kind of conditions on it, Vasiliy Lipitskiy said that it is difficult to assess the October events from the viewpoint of any kind of legal norms and therefore anything at all can be expected.

He also stressed that the FRPP, while definitely rethinking its position, will observe the continuity of its main political postulates, which, in his words, are social democratic in nature. The main elements are a market with social guarantees and the idea of Russian statehood on the basis of equality of the regions with centralization on a number of questions. In connection with the "vulnerability of 'Civic Union's' leaders" V. Lipitskiy assessed the Union's election chances as extremely substantial.

Christian-Democratic Party Outlines Strategy

LD2610195793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—"Political platforms of major electoral blocs essentially do not coincide with our stand. That is why, we will act on our own during the elections," leader of the Russian Christian-Democratic Party Aleksandr Chuyev told a news conference here today.

A federal list of 108 candidates nominated to the state Duma by the party's electoral association was registered on Monday [25 October]. The party in the person of its 77 territorial organizations is capable to get parliament mandates independently, said Chuyev.

The party's program includes morality and competence in politics, a law-governed state, private property, revival of Russian countryside as the basis of traditional life style, preservation of spiritual and cultural heritage of Russian peoples and foreign and foreign economic policies to correspondent to key national interests.

The party hopes to gain seven percents of votes and counts on the electors who do not support the main political coalitions, namely residents of Siberia, black earth zone, part of cossacks and believers. Its major electoral opponent is the Russian Christian-Democratic movement of Viktor Aksyuchits.

In the opinion of Chuyev, "the movement has nothing to do with his party and only discredits the very idea of Christian democracy".

RPU To Take 'Active Part' in Elections

LD2610202493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1711 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Fillipov]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Leaders of the Russian People's Union (RPU) announced today that they are going to take an active part in elections to the State Duma and the Federal Assembly. The RPU, an organisation in opposition to federal authorities (leaders - former Russian People's Deputies Sergey Baburin, Nikolay Pavlov and others) has proclaimed that its goal is "a peaceful, constitutional way" of the opposition to the policy of the president and the government and advocating in parliament its own ideas of Russia's political and economic system.

However, the RPU is paying no less attention to the rights and possibilities of other opposition organisations in the run up and during the elections.

Nikolay Pavlov, one of RPU leaders, addressed a news conference held today in the building of the newspaper "SOVESTKAYA ROSSIYA" which was suspended following tragic events in Moscow in October, saying that some political organisations would rather give up "a legal, constitutional way" of presenting their views to society and begin to practice "illegal methods of political struggle".

Touching upon the RPU's political and economic programme, Pavlov declared that "the interests of the Russian people have been and remain main priorities of this organisation." In Pavlov's opinion, it is necessary to review the economic policy of the government, to consider a more gradual transition to the market taking more than one decade and immediately ban Chubays' privatisation programme.

Explaining the split in the opposition forces on the eve of the elections, the formation of separate electoral blocs of Communists, constitutional democrats and other representatives of the opposition recently cooperating in the Russian Unity parliamentary block, Pavlov referred to "technical problems" and "some difference on political issues". At the same time he did not rule out that in some regions the RPU would support candidates from the Communist and other opposition blocs and, if the elections are a success, it would actively cooperate with them.

Observers believe that the split in the recently uniform opposition into several blocs, including the red, the white and others, has been made for the purpose of ensuring a differential approach to electors and winning the maximum number of votes.

Possibility of Single Opposition Bloc Discounted

PM2610150793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

["Commentary" by Aleksandr Meshkov: "Opposition: No United Bloc"]

[Text] It has become obvious that there will be no single opposition bloc in the elections to the Federal Assembly. The idea of passing the 5-percent mark and "pushing through" their own candidates into parliament independently or in conjunction with a few political allies has proved too tempting. It remains to be hoped that the results of this electoral campaign will force the moderate opposition to match its expectations with its abilities....

But meanwhile.... It is evident that not only could the opposition as a whole not agree on a single bloc, but that even parties ideologically close to one another—patriots with patriots, leftists with leftists—could not do so. One might logically have assumed that organizations of the patriotic spectrum allowed to participate in the elections would enter into an agreement on a single ticket at federal level. This applies primarily to the Constitutional Democrats (Mikhail Astafyev), the Christian Democrats (Viktor Aksyuchits), and the Russian All-National Union (Sergey Baburin). Not a bit of it!

The Christian Democrats decided to participate in the elections separately from the other patriotic politicians, but on the other hand, in union with two social organizations—the Assembly of Nobles, and the Merchants' Union. Great hopes are attached to these last named. Well, the descendants of merchants and nobles will find

their voters. But it is doubtful that this will prove sufficient to get into parliament.

The Constitutional Democratic Party-People's Freedom Party [CDP-PFP] has drifted further rightward, entering into an alliance with Nikolay Lysenko's National Republican Party. This in its turn has given rise to sharp disagreements within the leadership of the Constitutional Democrats, and above all among rank-and-file CDP-PFP members, which will probably lead to a series of new demarcations and splinter groups.

Moderates in the Constitutional Democratic Party, headed by Dmitriy Rogozin, had even before this set up the center-right Union for Russia's Revival, together with moderate patriots of other parties. Now they have once and for all lost hope of reaching any kind of agreement with the present leaders of the CDP-PFP. Hence they have taken a dramatic course: In the search for allies they have formed a bloc with the Socialist Working People's Party [SWPP] and other smaller democratic left-wing organizations, and also the Russian Union of Labor Collectives. In recent days this bloc has been reinforced with the Union of Cossacks and the Union of Oil Workers.... Both socialists and patriots entertain the idea that "Fatherland" ["Otechestvo"] (this is the name adopted by the new electoral bloc) will strengthen the positions of each of the allies, and, most importantly of all, help win seats in parliament.

At the same time, behind the idea of the "Fatherland" bloc stands not only the pragmatic calculation of politicians; this idea also has its conceptual content. A few days before the notorious events of 3-4 October, leaders of certain opposition political parties met and signed a statement "On the Need for a Single Bloc of Social and Patriotic Forces."

It would appear that socialists and enlightened patriots have now decided to put this project into action. The future will show what will come of it.... But for the duration of the election campaign "Fatherland" will objectively represent some kind of centrist association whose members will soften their hard-edged formulas, preferring abstract phrases on the lines of "concern for the fate of the country."

The social-class base of the bloc is expected to be broad: from some nationally oriented entrepreneurs, to workers of some sectors of industry. But the Democratic Party of Russia (Nikolay Travkin) and the "Entrepreneurs for a New Russia" association (Konstantin Zatulin) are also competing for the votes of national capital, and "Civic Union" for the votes of some workers....

"Civic Union" is currently experiencing far from the best of times. First, a serious rival to it has merged on the centrist flank. In addition, after the secession of the Democratic Party of Russia from "Civic Union," energetic efforts were needed to search for new political allies.

Right now a bloc is forming—the all-Russia "Renewal" union (Aleksandr Vladislavlev), the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (Arkadiy Volskiy), the Russian Youth League (Vyacheslav Lashchevskiy), the Russian Social Democratic Center (Oleg Rumyantsev), and the "Smena—New Policy" movement will probably join it. It cannot be ruled out that prominent figures will also run on the "Civic Union" ticket.

The absence of unity in the centrist movement has also affected the standpoint of sector trade unions. Some of them intend to support "Civic Union," others the "Fatherland" bloc. The agricultural workers' trade union will go to the polls with the Agrarian Union and the Agrarian Party (the latter refused to join any centrist bloc, although it claims a centrist niche). As for the central leadership of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR], it has ruled out forming blocs with any political forces.

But the experience of Western states shows that the trade union movement there traditionally affiliates itself with the left-wing democratic spectrum, which is called by different names in different countries: laborites, social democrats, socialists.

However, our left-wing democrats do not yet feel strong enough to make themselves known. They are not confident that voters will support a completely left-wing, "socialist" platform. They believe voters will be frightened by the "pink" hue of the democratic leftists and, God forbid, take it for "Red".... (All these fears took their toll on the recent congress of the Socialist Party of the Working People).

The attempts of some enthusiasts to create a "unified bloc of social democrats and Greens," or to find a common language between socialists and the Russian Social Democratic Center have led nowhere.

Be that as it may, the real forces that will oppose the liberal "Russia's Choice" and the moderate-liberal "Shakhray's party" today are the centrists. However, their fragmentation into blocs and parties ("Fatherland," "Civic Union," Democratic Party of Russia), and indeed, the "score settling" within the aforementioned organizations, incline one to think that the forthcoming elections will prove to be a lost chance for them.

Over 50 Parties Registered for Elections

LD2610231893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1859 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Sergey Oleinik]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Electorial block "Russia's Choice" acquired a legitimate legal status on Tuesday [26 October].

This political movement was registered under No 1967 with the Russian Ministry of Justice and now may

participate in elections to the state Duma, in which it stands a good chance of success.

Sergey Kovalyov, chairman of the Committee for Human Rights, who leads the list of the block's candidates to the state Duma together with Yegor Gaydar, received the registration certificate.

On the same day, registration certificates were given to representatives of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord [Accord], led by Sergey Shakhray, and other political movements and public organizations.

Altogether, over 50 parties and political movements and about 100 public organizations were registered with the Russian Ministry of Justice to date. Now they may directly nominate their candidates for elections on December 12.

Paper Previews Election Campaign

MK2610122193 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 70, 26 Oct 93 (signed to press 25 Oct) p 3

[Dmitriy Kuznets report in "Forecast" column: "The Voter Will Decide Whom To Cross Out. The Coveted 5 Percent Will Prove Out of Reach for Most Parties"]

[Text] The Russian voter, unsophisticated in political subtleties, who in the last several years has grown accustomed to the existence of two opposing camps, has found himself in a difficult situation. The Russian Federation Central Electoral Committee [Tsentrizbirkom] has allowed 126 organizations to contest the elections to the State Duma on a proportional representation basis, which immediately hastened to carry out the first part of the obligatory program—to collect the signatures of 100,000 "sympathizers" from seven Federation components. After this procedure a somewhat curtailed list of parties will be directly included into the ballot papers.

The voter will draw a cross against the organization to his liking while Tsentrizbirkom's legal experts, after adding up these crosses, will obtain a legitimate result—an equation with many unknowns is solved in favor of the most well known one. The "popularity" of a particular organization is directly proportional if not to the number of vice premiers at the top of its list or the number of regional bosses at its pre-election meetings, then surely to the sum of "sponsor" (or, God forbid, budgetary) funds at the disposal of a particular association and the state of its relations with Mr. Bragin and his company [reference to chief of Ostankino television company].

A relative victory by Russia's Choice is practically a foregone conclusion, while its main competitors will be PRES [Russian Party of Unity and Accord] (Sergey Shakhray's party) and the bloc created by former Vice Premier Grigoriy Yavlinskiy; Yuriy Boldyrev, former chief of the Oversight Directorate under the president; and Vladimir Lukin, ambassador to the United States. All three blocs have a similar electoral base and they may share the votes of those electors who have expressed their trust in the president and the government in the April referendum.

The other parties and blocs of "democratic orientation" will have to fight to overcome the 5 percent barrier which will "bury" the majority of organizations that do not enjoy particular popularity, together with the votes of their few electors. The coveted line can be reached by the Russian Democratic Reforms Movement (led by Gavriil Popov and Anatoliy Sobchak) and, conditional on the active support from the top military bosses, also Marina Salye's Free Democratic Party of Russia and Aleksandr Kotenev's "Afghans." The others will have an uphill task to struggle for several million votes (the exact number depends on the voter turnout) that entitle them to between 10 and 20 seats in the Duma.

Judging by the results of the April referendum and sociological surveys, the "democrats" will hardly be able to get more than 65 percent. In this event Russia's Choice is unlikely to score a sweeping victory (more than 50 percent of mandates). To create a majority Russia's Choice will have to attract the maximum number of deputies elected from majority constituencies or even form a coalition with Shakhray and Yavlinskiy.

Even if such a bloc does materialize, one cannot expect it to become a coherent structure or that its participants' actions will be united—in the absence of a real opposition on the part of the communists they will basically remain rivals. Struggle between the PRES and Russia's Choice leaders on particular provisions of the draft constitution up for the referendum has already begun.

The traditional communo-nationalist opposition may not get enough votes from that part of its electorate which will refuse to participate in elections "imposed by Yeltsin." Under current regulations, it is practically impossible to thwart the voting—the will of 25 percent of the Russian people will be enough.

And still Gennadiy Zyuganov's Communist Party, Lyudmila Vartazarova's socialists in bloc with the former official trade unions, and the "independent" Travkin's Democratic Party may count on a number of mandates which will allow them if not to block the decisions by the "democratic" majority, then at least to try to play on the contradictions between its components.

Especially since there will also be elections to the upper chamber of parliament—the Federation Council, which will be contested by representatives of the regional elites.

And not only those "supervised" by Sergey Shakhray.

Request for Foreign Observers Praised

PM2610152593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 3

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "More Than 100 International Experts Will Observe Election Campaign's Progress in Russia"]

[Text] The presence of foreign observers at elections is a new phenomenon for Russia. All previous similar "events" were carried out under the strict control of the CPSU, and this seemed adequate for us. Party organs would nominate candidate deputies, determine the voting procedure, pick the members of the electoral commissions, and sometimes edit the texts of the election result announcements. However, more often than not they did not even have to do this: It was clear to everyone that 99.99 percent of the votes would be cast for candidates from "the indissoluble bloc of Communists and nonparty people"—there were no other candidates.

Nowadays it is quite a different matter. Approximately 100 political parties, movements, social organizations, and alliances have already entered the fray for a deputy's mandate. Will they all get equal rights and opportunities? Will the organizers of the election not resort to juggling the results?

Boris Yeltsin, announcing his decision to suspend the Supreme Soviet's lawmaking activity and to hold early parliamentary elections, gave assurances that the elections would be democratic in full accordance with Russian legislation. In order that there should be no doubt, he invited the West to send its own observers. He stated this personally over the telephone to the U.S. President and the FRG chancellor. The Japanese prime minister received a similar invitation during Boris Yeltsin's recent meeting in Tokyo, as did the French president who received Russian Foreign Ministry Head Andrey Kozyrev in Paris last week.

The Kremlin's proposal has not gone unanswered. Moreover, Boris Yeltsin's announcement that the people themselves, as the highest repository of sovereignty, should decide Russia's future at nationwide elections has become an important factor in the West's support for the Kremlin's actions in overcoming the political crisis in the country. Valery Giscard d'Estaing, former French president and currently chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, having called for observers from EC member countries' parliaments to be sent to Russia "in order to verify the conditions in which general parliamentary elections will be held 12 December," expressed the view that this step will make it easier for the elections to appear legitimate, "which will facilitate the continuing process of democratic reforms in this country." Another international authority, former Senator Gary Hart, who once stood as a U.S. Presidential candidate, stressed that "honest elections complying with all juridical norms" are very important for the establishment of democracy in Russia. Among these norms he listed "absolute press freedom, the equal right of all candidates to appear on television and other mass media, the equal right of candidates to state financing of their election campaigns, and an adequate time frame for holding the election campaign."

According to data from the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, over 100 foreign experts will observe the progress of the election campaign in Russia. Representatives are being sent by the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, a number of other international organizations, and also the United States, France, the FRG, and Japan.... Gary Hart hopes that "the Russian president and Government will meet with them at the beginning of November and tell them what measures are being taken to ensure free elections." The observers' role, according to him, "will be to ensure that the government keeps its promises." Moreover, in the former senator's opinion, "the parties will be able to send their remarks on the organization of the elections to the international experts."

But does this international monitoring not violate the country's sovereignty, something of which we have always been proud? Have we sunk to the level of the "banana republics" where only foreign observers can guarantee the rights of candidates and voters alike? World experience says no. On the contrary, having invited in experts from abroad, we have merely emphasized our independence, our democratic choice, and our desire to live on equal terms in the world community. And we have done this voluntarily.

Muscovites Polled on Elections

MK2610121293 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 1

[Oleg Savelyev report under the "Whom Do We Elect?" rubric: "Armor is Strong, and Blocs Are Fast"]

[Text] The Institute of Social and Marketing Studies conducted on 19 and 20 October a telephone poll of 1,000 residents of the capital under the supervision of Sergey Kolobanov.

Answers to some of the questions devoted to the upcoming elections are in percentages.

"Do you or do you not plan to take part in the elections for Russia's new parliament on 12 December 1993?"

Yes	57
No	26
Do not know, yet undecided	17

"If elections for Russia's new parliament took place today, which political blocs or parties out of those listed below would you most likely prefer?"

Russia's Choice (Gaydar)-Democratic Russia (Ponomarev) bloc	25
Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms (Popov, Sobchak)	5
Party of Russian Unity and Accord (Shakhray, Stankevich, Shokhin)	9
Democratic Party of Russia (Travkin)	4

Republican Party (Lysenko)	less than 1
Social Democratic Party (Rumyantsev)	0
Civic Union (Volskiy)	1
Liberal Democratic Party (Zhirinovskiy)	less than 1
Peasants Party (Chernichenko)	less than 1
Party of communist orientation (Zyuganov)	1
Parties of national-patriotic orientation	1
Entrepreneurs for New Russia (Zatulin)	1
Other parties	4
Against all of them	3
Do not know yet, still undecided	43

Economic Issues

First Experiment in Land Privatization Begins

LD2610225493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] As has been announced today, Russia has finally started to privatize collective and state farms, which today account for 90 percent of agricultural land in Russia. Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast is where the first experiment is being carried out. The author of the program is the oblast's governor, [Boris] Nemtsov. Special certificates representing the right of every holder to his share of land—to about six hectares, as well as to part of what used to be collective farm property—will be distributed among former collective farm workers as the first stage. On average, 10 to 15 farms, of different types, will emerge where there used to be one collective farm. Farmers can buy, sell, and exchange the certificates and also use them collectively and pool them in order to buy land and agricultural equipment at auctions. It is precisely at the auctions that the new farming economy will develop on a competitive basis—private and collective, large and small. It is also possible that some collective farms will remain intact. Minister for Agriculture and Food Viktor Klystun stressed the importance of free choice in selecting the type of property ownership and in deciding how farms are to be managed. Yegor Gaydar has said that a presidential decree stepping up agrarian reform that will legalize the private ownership of land, its purchase, and sale—long awaited in the countryside—will be issued in the next few days .

Agricultural Policy Council Meets, Discusses Reform

LD2610155993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—The Council on Agrarian Policy under the Russian Government held its meeting at the government building on Tuesday [26 October] with the participation of Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. It examined a draft programme for Russia's agrarian reform in 1993-1995.

The document defines a strategy for agrarian changes and stages for their implementation, priority areas for the development of the agro-industrial complex and suggests a system of state assistance to agricultural producers by regulating budgetary, credit, price and tax policies.

The draft programme also outlines the main areas for further transformation of state property of land into property of citizens and enterprises of various organisational and legal forms, redistribution of lands and legal formalisation of rights to land, the establishment of a land market, procedure of mortgaging lands by agricultural producers and their rational utilisation.

Summing up the results of today's meeting, Chernomyrdin said that it is impossible to borrow automatically foreign experience of conducting agro-industrial production under Russian conditions, which was advocated by some council members.

He also stressed that the government does not intend to abandon the system of state orders on agricultural produce.

"We intend to minimise our agricultural imports to give our producers a chance to sell more products on the domestic market," the premier noted.

Chernomyrdin Attends Council

LD2610214193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" program]

[Text] The Russian Government seems to be tackling agriculture seriously these days. After the Saturday decision to allocate additional funds to agricultural producers, Viktor Chernomyrdin today attended a meeting of the council for agrarian policy under the government. A program of agrarian reform was examined. It determines state support for agricultural producers by regulating budget, price, taxation, and credit policy. In order to revive agriculture, a competitive environment with various forms of ownership—state, cooperative and private—will be created. At the first stage, the program envisages a stabilization of our agro-industrial complex, the development of a normative basis, and the real introduction of private ownership of land.

The directors of state and collective farms who spoke at the council voiced an extremely negative attitude toward the decree being prepared on introducing private ownership of land. They said that the demolition of state and collective farms spells famine for the country. They demanded additional financing and state purchases of their output. Responding to the demands, Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that the state would support domestic

agricultural producers, would not give up the state order, and intended to reduce import of grain to a minimum.

Agricultural Output Predicted To Decline

LD2610120693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Even if the weather conditions are favorable in 1994, agricultural production will continue to decline in Russia. Moreover, farmers will fail to sell a large amount of agricultural produce on the domestic market, say experts of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture. According to their forecast, the grain crop will amount to 94 Mn tons, compared to the expected 101 Mn tons this year, and 107 Mn tons last year.

Agriculture is seriously underfinanced. As a result, there is a shortage of agricultural equipment, fuel and mineral fertilizers. All of which has caused agricultural production to go down.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Nikolay Averyanov told Interfax that most of the farms would not have a single ruble on their bank accounts by the end of 1993. In 1993, the agricultural enterprises' total income will slightly exceed 1 Tn rubles. This sum is insufficient even for keeping the agricultural workers' earnings at a decent level, to say nothing of capital investments or preparations for the sowing campaign, said Nikolay Averyanov.

Political Motive Seen Behind Zaveryukha 'Publicity Stunt'

PM2610161193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 1

[Valeriy Konovalov article: "Politicians Gathering Harvest From Peasants' Fields. Vice Premier's Demarche Was a Bluff"]

[Text] The Council of Ministers decree allegedly providing preferential new credits for the countryside, which was reported on television the day before, proved not quite accurate. Viktor Chernomyrdin has not signed any such decree on this score.

The reality is quite different. An accord has been reached with the Central Bank on the allocation of credits to finance the agricultural campaigns, although the credits are not on preferential terms but at an interest rate of 210 percent. The sum of over 1 trillion rubles is intended to be used to pay off grain-purchase debts and to complete those purchases, for the purchase of oil-bearing seeds for the processing industry, and to provide credit for other sectors of agriculture. This decision does not signify any changes in the rigid financial policy which the renewed government is now pursuing. Furthermore, the sums of money in question are primarily the state's debts for produce already supplied by the peasants. This money, of course, must be paid out no matter what financial policy is being pursued.

In particular, this is money for the new crop which, as IZVESTIYA predicted, was not a record harvest but was nevertheless not inconsiderable and was approximately at the level of last year's. Purchases for the federal and regional stocks are not bad. The only problem is the prompt payment of money by the purchaser—in this case "Roskhleboprodukt"—which was unable to obtain credits for purchasing operations. The accord that has been reached will resolve this problem.

News of the decree on preferential credits that Chernomyrdin is supposed to have signed immediately had a political spin-off. The day before, Aleksandr Zaveryukha, the vice premier responsible for agriculture, staged a scene at the Council of Ministers session where he declared that the government did not understand the problems of agriculture and announced his possible resignation as a result. After that he left the meeting, and a day later the report of "Chernomyrdin's decree" appeared. Some people viewed this as a result of the vice premier's hysteria. Other observers considered that Zaveryukha, of course, knew about the imminent decision but nevertheless caused an uproar so as to boost his popularity with the Agrarian Union and with the Agrarian Party, which has nominated him as a candidate for the forthcoming elections.

Now it is clear that the decision on the allocation of credits has nothing to do with the vice premier's publicity stunt. Of course Zaveryukha made this gesture quite consciously in the expectation of receiving extensive publicity. Of course he is concerned about the forthcoming reduction in the number of vice premiers and is clearly coming off second best in comparison with Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun as a consistent and serious specialist. Thus one path remains—to go into politics under the wing of the Agrarian Party. That is the choice he has made. To politics from the economy—many people are making that journey in this environment. Those who like to speak on behalf of the peasants but, essentially, contrary to their interests.

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Antimonopoly Committee

LD2710110493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0939 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 27 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—On 26 October, President Boris Yeltsin signed the edict "On Urgent Measures To Stabilize the Work of the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for the New Economic Structures," states a release by the press service of the Russian president.

According to the document, the Russian Government is instructed to examine the implementation of the Russian president's edict No. 915 of 24 August 1992 "On the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Antimonopoly Policy and Supoort for the New Economic Structures," and to make the necessary decisions in light of the results of the examination.

The Russian president's edict raises the number of staff of the State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for the New Economic Structures to 3,100 and sets the official salaries of top staff, specialists and employees of the committee's territorial directorates and the salaries of the corresponding categories of staff of ministries and state committees of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Ministry of Science and Technology Policy, the Russian Ministry of Education, the Russian State Committee for Higher Education, the Chief Directorate for Training Cadres for State Service under the Russian president, jointly with the State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures are charged with examining the question of introducing courses on the principles of legislation and antimonopoly policy and the protection of consumer rights in the curricula of vocational-technical, secondary specialized and higher education with effect from the 1993/94 academic year.

The edict has been signed with the aim of achieving a more efficient implementation of state antimonopoly policy, of work on supporting new economic structures and on protecting consumer rights and of strengthening cadres in the apparatus of the Russain State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support of New Economic Structures and its territorial directorates.

Gaydar Discusses Antimonopoly Policies

LD2610213293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1519 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Vladimir Zadera]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct—The main criterion of the activity of the state antimonopoly regulation bodies should be the index for reducing market shortages, as expressed in the degree to which markets are saturated with goods. This was stated by Yegor Gaydar, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, at a conference of representatives of territorial bodies of the Russian State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy [SCAP], which began work in Moscow today.

The first deputy prime minister acknowledged the imperfection of the scheme for regulating monopoly prices by the method of limiting profitability, currently used by the bodies of the SCAP. But under conditions of high inflation it is quite difficult to find another working mechanism.

Yegor Gaydar believes that there has to be a substantial rise in attention to the fundamental issues of market openness, fighting the restrictions of regional markets, and all kinds of administrative regulation which lead to unjustified privileges for subjects engaged in economic activity.

Finance Minister Predicts Drop in Inflation

LD2710095793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov believes that one can realistically expect inflation to drop to 15 percent by December this year and to under 10 percent by February next year. This is reported in the MEGAPOLIS-EKSPRESS newspaper.

However, the minister emphasizes that this will only be possible if the government sticks to the harsh targets it has set itself and does not resort to populist measures. In Boris Fedorov's view, the danger that such measures could be taken is quite real.

Government Plans To Close 42 Coal Mines

LD2610174993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1523 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Russia is planning to close 42 coal mines and anticipates a further drop in coal production by nine million tonnes, it was stated at a meeting of the government commission on urgent issues chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets on Tuesday [26 October].

First Deputy Energy Minister Aleksandr Yevtushenko said eight per cent of the total workforce employed in the coal industry are working at the 42 mines which account for 20 per cent of accidents and only for three per cent of the total coal output. 11 out of the 42 mines are to be closed in the coming two-three years, he added.

The restructuring of the industry will result in a further drop in production by nine million tonnes of coal. Yevtushenko predicted, however, the director general of the "Rosugol" concern said the decrease in production is expected to end in 1997 when the demand for Russian coal is expected to grow.

Coal production has been annually decreasing in Russia by 8-10 per cent of late because of worn-out equipment, according to the Energy Ministry.

68 per cent out of the 238 mines have been working for more than 20 years and have never been reconstructed. During the whole of its Soviet history the coal industry survived only thanks to state subsidies. Free prices on the fuel which have been introduced of late showed that an absolute majority of mines cannot survive on their own anyway.

Slowdown in Economic Decline Noted

PM2610174393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Economy: Slowdown in Rate of Decline, Trends Toward Growth Discernible"]

[Text] It is clear from the figures cited in the tabulation below that our economy's downward slide is continuing. At the same time, a number of indicators reflect a clear slowdown in the rate of decline, and trends toward growth are even discernible. Construction workers, for instance, handed over more accommodations than for the same period last year. Retail commodity turnover has increased by 4 percent. The rise in the population's incomes has almost kept pace with inflation. The number of unprofitable enterprises has hardly risen at all.

	Jan-Sep '93 (in actual prices)1993 as a percentage of 1992 (in comparative prices)	September	Jan-Sep
GDP (trillion rubles)		90.0	87.0
National income produced (trillion rubles)	71.4		85.5
Volume of industrial output (trillion rubles)	63.2	85.8	83.5
Output of consumer goods (trillion rubles)	20.6	90.2	89.5
Total living space commissioned from all sources of financing (million square meters)	18.8		100.2
Average wage of workers in national economy in August (thousand rubles)	65.4	1,000#	
Retail commodity turnover (trillion rubles)	18.6	88.0	104.0
Paid Services (trillion rubles)	2.0		79.0
Freight shipments (dispatch) via general-purpose transportation (billion tonnes)	2.8	77.0	74.0
Monetary incomes of population (trillion rubles)	34.6	1,020	1,000
Monetary expenditure by population on purchase of goods and payment for services (trillion rubles)	21.0	960	960
Consolidated index of consumer prices (excluding nonessential goods and services)	121.0##	1,140	540###
Growth in population's savings in deposit accounts and securities (billion rubles)	1,824.8	1,030	1,290
Emissions (billion rubles)	6,540	660	760
Exports (billion U.S.$)	28.0	102.1	110.0
Imports (billion U.S.$)	13.3	41.8	46.8

August 1993 as against August 1992

September 1993 as against August 1993

September 1993 as against December 1992 (According to data from Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics.)

Media Issues

Poltoranin Accuses Government of Trying To Control Media

LD2610171593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1654 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Mikhail Poltoranin, a close ally of President Boris Yeltsin and head of the Federal Information Centre, accused the government of attempts to retain control over the press in Russia and urged journalists to create an independent press corporation.

Signalling growing disagreements between the president and the government he called to create an interim state council at the president which would control the government in the absence of a parliament.

Poltoranin told a press conference on Tuesday [26 October] the preliminary decision on the creation of the press corporation on the basis of his centre and the Journalists' Union "caused disagreements between the presidential and government structures".

"Not everyone in the government wants to give the material and technical base to journalists and thus lose control over the press", Poltoranin said, but did not give any names.

On Tuesday it was announced that the TV centre of the dissolved parliament was taken over by the government press service which would air its own programmes.

"If the reins between the government and mass media become shorter, hard times are in store for the freedom of the press", Poltoranin warned, but said the president is determined to sign a decree fixing the legal and economic status of the press which will then be submitted to a new parliament.

Poltoranin urged journalists to fight for their rights and said he would demand to dissolve his Information Centre if the press corporation is not created. "We need a market of the press, (financial) privileges, privatised property an a legal base", he said, adding that the press corporation should get "a starting capital" from the state and then create its own investment funds to secure economic independence.

Dwelling on the idea of the interim council to control the government, he said he had not yet discussed it with Boris Yeltsin, but believes the council can free "economy from becoming a hostage of politics".

Papers' Chief Editors React to Closures

PM2610145793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Valeriy Ivanov report: "There Is No Ban, But There Are No Newspapers, Either"]

[Text] Why are PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and FEDERATSIYA not coming out—after all, the state of emergency, during which they were closed down, is over.

PRAVDA Chief Editor Gennadiy Seleznev: "We are lodging an appeal with Sverdlovskiy [Rayon] People's Court against the unlawful closure of the newspaper, to which General Prosecutor A. Kazannik has unfortunately not responded. In the near future we will also lodge an appeal with the Court of Arbitration, demanding compensation for moral and material damage."

FEDERATSIYA Deputy Chief Editor Andrey Yablokov: "The newspaper has not been coming out since 12 September. This is due to the fact that it was financed by the Supreme Soviet in 1993, although its founder was the State Committee for Federation and Nationalities Affairs. The collective found itself without any pay or prospects for the future. It was given to understand that all questions would be settled if the chief editor left. The collective would not agree to this. But, seeing the prevailing situation, the chief editor decided to hand in her resignation."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Chief Editor Valentin Chikin: "Following the closure of our newspaper, the Law on the State of Emergency and the Law on the Press are being violated. Given that during the state of emergency we were not able to publish a single issue, today's closure is simply a case of settling scores, a desire to conduct the election campaign in a more comfortable situation. We will file a suit against the Ministry of Press and Information in the near future, demanding compensation for the material and moral damage."

Chernomyrdin Takes Over 'RTV Parliament' Center

LD2610130693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1247 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—A month and a half before upcoming elections Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin ruled to take over the "RTV Parliament" TV centre which was created by the dissolved legislature and came out with its "Parliament Hour" programme advocating the views of lawmakers.

The press service of the prime minister will take over all the finances and equipment of the TV centre, but will employ new personnel. President Boris Yeltsin had earlier decreed that all property of the dissolved parliament be transferred to the government.

Valentin Sergeyev, spokesman of the prime minister, told TASS on Tuesday [26 October] that the programmes of his press service, prepared by a new staff, will go on air shortly on the first and second tv channels and will be much more interesting than the current talk of politicians and western commercials.

"We intend to broadly cover the life of the regions, the activities of regional executive authorities and what is more important - to show the life of a man from the street who was replaced on TV screens by politicians and commercials of the "Snickers" (chocolate)", Sergeyev said.

Still they will "give priority to explaining the president-approved programme of government actions aimed at stabilising the economy, to routine work of the council of ministers, departments and ministries aimed at its implementation".

He added that the government TV will begin its broadcasts with short programmes which will expand "as public interest in them grows". He said the first programme will be aired "in a short time".

Military TV Chief Interviewed on Program Plans

PM2610121993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 8

[Interview with Vladimir Borovyak, chief editor of the "VoyenTV" studio and deputy chief of the Defense

Ministry central television and radio studio, by Igor Yadykin; place and date not given: "Society Must Know Everything About the Army"]

[Text] It seems that it was only very recently that our television screens first showed scenes with the "VoyenTV" logo in the corner. But they have already managed to sear us with pictures from the Tajik-Afghan border and the harsh "trenches" truth of the soldiers' gray daily routine. Today military television is beginning to win prestige among viewers. Vladimir Borovyak, chief editor of the television studio and deputy chief of the Russian Federation Defense MInistry Central Television and Radio Studio, describes "VoyenTV's" new programs.

[Yadykin] Vladimir Richardovich, as far as I know as a television viewer right now there are only two "steady" half-hour weekly programs covering military topics in the country. Can we expect new programs in the near future and daily military programs?

[Borovyak] We can and must, as is already the case in many civilized countries. The army is a serious state institution and social organism. And the coverage of its complex, tense life must be approached seriously. Particularly today—in the period of its establishment.

So far I do not want to reveal our immediate creative designs and plans. I shall merely say that there will be new programs: news and analysis programs and topic-related programs, and entertainment programs.

Today, if you have noticed, our reports are constantly on the first and second channels in the "Vesti," "Novosti," "Utro," "Man and Law," "Key to the Start," and "Far from Moscow" programs...

In conjunction with the "Ostankino" television company we have made an hour-long film entitled "Russian Weapons" about the Le Bourget exhibition this year. Incidentally, it will be shown on the "Northern Crown" channel. A number of our programs like "The Cossack Savior" and "the Arms Trade" after being shown on this channel were repeated on the "Rossiya" channel. We are also cooperating with the "Golden Spur" creative association. We have filmed with them a movie about the Airborne Troops special forces.

In the future, with the improvement of financing, we are planning to create a studio of educational programs for cable television and then for satellite television—to service the most remote "spots."

It is not for nothing that we are called the Russian Federation Defense Ministry central television and radio studio because in the future we are counting on creating a whole network of studios: studios for the military districts, fleets, branches of the armed forces, educational establishments, and so forth.

[Yadykin] What audience are you counting on?

[Borovyak] We are not planning to restrict ourselves to purely military topics but, of course, we must work in the interests of the implementation of Russia's military policy and an understanding of the problems of war and peace and provide correct information about army and navy life and struggle against "unbridled" pacifism. Society must know and understand its armed forces just as the armed forces must understand the life of society and its problems and the trends of political life.

To judge by viewers' responses this is the correct course. We are also counting on serious collaboration with the mass media of nearby and distant foreign parts and with television studios similar to ours.

[Yadykin] Can one speak of the independence of your television studio's journalists?

[Borovyak] We make no secret of the fact that our studio's founder is the Russian Defense Ministry. That is we are not a private concern and we do state work. We are military people, we have a professional studio. So far no one has led us by the hand. Each journalist has his own internal censor, honor, and conscience, and unwritten laws of professional duty. It is with this that we are going to the viewer.

Fund for Protection of Correspondents Set Up

LD2610194693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—A fund for protection of the press has been set up to assist correspondents affected when on duty, a news conference with the theme "Press. Law. Power" was told here today.

The fund was formed on the initiative of ITAR-TASS, the Union of Russian Correspondents, the Correspondents' Fund of the Union of Russian Correspondents, the Fund for protection of Openness, the Ostankino TV Company, the editor's office of the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper, the International Press Center, the Moscow Club, the Promradtechbank Joint Stock Development Bank and a number of other commercial structures.

In the words of ITAR-TASS General Director Vitaliy Ignatenko, the fund will help affected journalists and families of killed correspondents, provide for insurance of correspondents working in hotbeds, equip them and pay for material damage resulting from attacks at editorial offices.

The form of the fund will help refute rumors on the influence of commercial structures on mass media.

The first aid of the new organization will be rendered to correspondents affected by October 1993 developments in Moscow and families of correspondents killed in the

developments. This will be done during a remembrance action to be held on November 13 at the Central House of Correspondents.

Military & Space Issues

Yeltsin Places Marshal Shaposhnikov Under His Command

LD2710092693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 27 Oct (Itar-Tass)—President Yeltsin has placed Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov under his command, in accordance with the Instruction on Military Service. Boris Yeltsin signed the relevant decree on 26 October. This was reported today by the press service of the Russian president.

Defense Outlays Increased to 8.2 Percent of GNP

MK2610141093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 26 Oct p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report "Economic Policy in the Period of Presidential Rule. Council of Ministers Starts To Pay Against Generals' Bills"]

[Text] The results of the president's political offensive have determined the Russian Government's main course of actions for the coming month and a half—elections for the Federal Assembly. Unlike the spring, pre-referendum promises race, another two factors—the army and unemployment—are having an impact today on Council of Ministers medium-term economic decisions. The influence of top-echelon generals is already being felt: Last weekend the proposed appropriations for military needs were increased more than 50 percent on the insistence of the Defense Ministry.

The political renaissance the army is living through after the October events provides the entire military-industrial complex with a unique chance. Taking account of the traditional links between the producers and consumers of military technology, one can suppose that representatives of defense sectors will try to enlist the help of army structures in bringing pressure to bear on the cabinet in a bid at least to increase financing for military programs. The basis for that can be provided by the new military doctrine that on the whole has been approved, and the armament program calculated for several decades. In line with these documents, a serious reforming of the Russian Army is proposed which would require considerable sums. The Russian military-industrial establishment has formulated for itself the minimum program: not to let the government "forget" the military doctrine. It is tackling this task rather successfully, judging by the results of the preliminary discussion of the 1994 budget.

It has become known to KOMMERSANT-DAILY that nearly 5 percent of GNP was to be appropriated in line with the previous variant. However, after Defense Ministry specialists studied the draft and a series of consultations were held in the government, military appropriations were nearly doubled to 8.2 percent. This in fact may serve as a mere reflection of the general tendency in the growth of the military-industrial complex's impact on the government economic policy, because even these appropriations fall short of carrying out the new military doctrine—according to assessments by the military agency, the sums set aside will be enough only to maintain troops in minimum combat readiness.

Thus, one can speak with sufficient confidence about the start of the formation of a parallel, and in many respects alternative to the government, center of economic power. Already in the most immediate future it will be making attempts not only to redistribute finances in its favor, but also to uphold its own view of the organization of the finest part of Russian industry and ways the state can influence the military-industrial complex. In this setup, pressure could be exerted at all levels: via the State Committee for Defense Industries and the Defense Ministry upon the Council of Ministers, via commanders of military districts upon the authorities of oblasts and republics. The government's possibilities to resist this influence may be considerably narrowed if rapidly growing unemployment, which the government so far does not know how to competently fight, becomes the second dominant trend of economic policy.

Pacific Fleet Allowed to Contract More Servicemen

LD2610155293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The Russian defense minister allowed the Pacific Fleet to hire 10,000 personnel in addition to the 10,000 professionals hired by the fleet. Most of them will be squad leaders, rocket crewmen, mechanics and operators who make the largest contribution to preparedness of the fleet's ships and coastal units.

Officers in the fleet headquarters told Interfax that numerous civilians and every sixth conscript applies for contractual service on the fleet.

Nearly one third of the hired personnel, 2800, are women.

By the defense minister's directive, men from 18 to 40 and women from 20 to 40 years of age who are to be hired by the fleet must meet stricter health, education, military, moral, psychological and reliability requirements.

Cosmos-2265 Rocket Launched From Plesetsk

LD2610161693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1524 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By Semen Ivanov for TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct—The Russian Military Space Forces launched a Kosmos booster rocket with the Cosmos-2265 spacecraft from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome at 16 hours 00 minutes 04 seconds Moscow time [1300 GMT] today. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told at the press center of the Military Space Forces that the launch, conducted in the interests of the Russian Defence Ministry, was successful.

This launch of the Kosmos booster rocket was the 10th since 15 April 1992, when the practical implementation of the Ekos program, developed by experts from the Military Space Forces and approved and adopted by the chief designers of the Kosmos and Tsiklon booster rockets, began at the Plesetsk cosmodrome. The rockets had been created on the basis of combat ballistic missiles and use toxic components as their fuel. At present, all the launches of these types of booster rockets are conducted with reduced amount of residual rocket fuel components in the tanks of the primary stage, which increases the ecological purity of the equipment. Studies carried out on the spots where primary stages fell have revealed that the area of pollution has been reduced by a factor of three, while the amount of toxic substances in the environment has been reduced at least by a factor of 10.

Regional Affairs

Tatar Leader Urges Sovereignty Issue in Constitution

LD2610232393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1936 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev has negatively assessed the attempts by the Constitutional Conference working group to leave the formula of sovereignty out of the draft constitution.

"Sovereignty is declared by the people, it is possible neither to present somebody with nor to deprive somebody of sovereignty," Shaymiyev pointed out in an exclusive interview with Interfax. He said he considered it as an attempt by a small group of politicians to make use of the situation when the executive branch of power is not counterbalanced and step on the road of easy decisions.

The Tatar president pointed out that the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Tatarstan was proclaimed on behalf of its peoples. "We are not inclined to step an inch away from it, and we will exercise our sovereignty in a civilized and legal way," he added. The president warned: "If similar articles get into the draft constitution by some means or other, I am more than confident that the people of Tatarstan is unlikely to take part in the popular vote on its adoption."

Shaymiyev said the attempts to unilaterally deprive the republics of sovereignty, apply pressure upon them and neglect their opinion were directed to aggravate the tensions existing in society. "Such a constitution cannot be a constitution of accord," he believes.

"No one is going to secede from the Russian Federation," the Tatar leader said. He pointed out that under the open confrontation of branches of power in the center which ended with bloodshed in early October, the republics, territories and regions backed Russia's integrity even more actively than some parties and movements. It is them who proved to be its guarantors rather than the center, Shaymiyev believes.

The Tatar president believes that the Council of the Heads of the Republics will be convoked on the initiative by regional leaders within the nearest days to meet with Boris Yeltsin. Such a meeting could settle the differences over the draft constitution before it is published.

Shaymiyev said neither he nor other Tatar leaders will join the race for federal bodies of power.

The full text of Mintimer Shaymiyev's interview with Interfax will be published in one of the following Exclusive editions.

Tatar Group Opposes Federal Assembly Elections

PM2610164193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 1

[Boris Bronshteyn report: "Tatar National Movement Against Elections to Federal Assembly"]

[Text] Kazan—The presidium of the All-Tatar Public Center has adopted a message to the people of Tatarstan in which it urged them not to allow elections to the Federal Assembly to be held on the republic's territory.

The address says that the president of Russia has chosen a strong-arm method of achieving his aim, that a dictatorial regime is looming over Russia, and that the proposed Federal Assembly is nothing more than a screen designed to lend leigtimacy to the president's edicts. This stand by the center runs counter to the Tatarstan leadership's intention to ensure the conditions for holding the federal elections on the republic's territory.

Sakhalin Soviet Chairman Aksenov Receives New Post

OW2610223093 Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television Network in Russian 2005 GMT 20 Oct 93

[From the "As of This Hour" program]

[Text] According to a report by the oblast administration's press center, Governor Krasnoyarov has signed a number of decrees and directives concerning the reform of representative organs of power. The administration head decreed that the apparatus of the oblast organ of

representative power be formed. It is to have the rights of a legal entity, and Anatoliy Aksenov has been appointed its head.

An employment commission for deputies of the oblast soviet who had full-time jobs and for staff members of the apparatus of soviets is to be formed. It will also draw up an inventory of oblast soviet property.

Government Approves Sakhalin Financial Aid Package

LD2610132193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0821 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct—The Russian Government has adopted a decision on providing additional support for the economy of Sakhalin oblast in 1993-95. The resolution signed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has been adopted "to provide state support for the important production sectors and the social sphere in Sakhalin oblast, for increasing (social) protection of the population and, taking into account the emergency situation which has arisen in this island oblast's economy in connection with the liberalization of fuel prices and transport fares, for regulating the money-credit market.

Before the end of 1993 15 billion rubles will be allocated from the state budget for ensuring a stable budget to finance the oblast's coal industry. Funds from the republican budget will be used to develop the Solntsevskoye coal reserve in 1994, while next year the oblast's coal industry as a whole will receive subsidies worth 40,000 million rubles which will be used to finance capital investment and for supporting facilities in the social sphere. It has also been proposed to examine the issue of compensation, from the budget, for the difference in the increasing cost of electricity used by the oblast's economic facilities.

Subsidies and compensation for farms and enterprises which make up the agro-industrial complex are also envisaged.

Sakhalin oblast's enterprises and producers are being freed from import duties on equipment, spare parts, materials, and component parts coming from abroad which are intended for new building, reconstruction, and technical re-equipping. Customs duties on products of Sakhalin oblast's enterprises which are exported, such as cellulose, paper, cardboard, timber, and coal have been reduced by 50 percent.

Ingush Constitution To Be Adopted by Referendum

LD2610123193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1123 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Nazran October 26 TASS—"Parallel with the December 12 elections in Russia, the Ingush Republic will hold a referendum on its constitution," President of the Ingush Republic Ruslan Aushev told ITAR-TASS.

Since no representative bodies have so far been formed in the young republic, the problems, relating to the adoption of a constitution, are now being decided by Aushev and his supporters within the presidential council. A constitutional assembly will be held in Nazran, the capital of Ingushetia, early this November. It will finalise the constitution, the text of which will be published in the local press for public discussion.

According to Aushev, the draft of the Ingush constitution stipulates as the state's main goal "the complete political rehabilitation of the nation, of all the citizens of the Ingush Republic". He believes also that the republican constitution could be adopted even before the boundaries of the republic were fixed. At the same time, he recalled that he had recently officially renounced all territorial claims to Northern Ossetia and the moratorium on the solution of territorial issues by July 1, 1995, the deadline fixed in President Yeltsin's decree.

Aushev stated that he planned to hold parliamentary and preterm presidential elections after the adoption of the Ingush constitution on December 12.

Yakutia To Retain Next Year's Federal Tax

LD2610231793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1936 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The Russian Finance Ministry and the Yakutian government have signed a budget agreement for next year under which Yakutia will keep back all of the federal tax but will both local and federal programs from its own budget. [sentence as received]

Yakutian Finance Minister Vladimir Ptitsyn speaking afterwards said the deal did recognize de jure Yakutia's holding back to the federal tax since early this year. He said the new agreement could help straighten out the republic's finances because of ruling out any delays in payment between the producers on the one hand and between the plants and the budget on the other which were caused by technical difficulties in money remittance from Moscow to Yakutia and back.

On the deal's social benefits, Ptitsyn said that a 70 percent pay rise would now be granted to workers of federal factories and offices, something that their local counterparts had been receiving since early this year.

The minister said the question of how to fight tax evasion by commercial and private businesses was now high on the agenda.

Tyumen Oblast, Okrugs Move to 'Rational Compromise'

PM2610125793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 6

[Nikolay Dudnikov report: "Three-Way Compromise"]

[Text] An appeal to deputies of Tyumen Oblast Soviet, of Khanti-Mansiysk and Yamalo-Nenetsk Okrug Soviets, and of city, settlement, and rayon soviets of people's deputies, signed by Administration Heads L. Roketskiy, A. Filipenko, and L. Bayandin, has been published in Tyumen Oblast.

The document stresses that not all of the oblast's soviets appraised the actions of the leaders of the Supreme Soviet or supported the Russian president's efforts to extricate the country from the severe political crisis.

At the same time, it says: "The Russian president's edict No. 1400 of 21 September 1993 makes it possible to form a fundamentally new system of representative power from top to bottom, one that corresponds to the interests of the people."

It is hard to say at present what role this appeal will play. But I, and probably many other inhabitants of the oblast as well, am encouraged and delighted by this onset of consolidation. After all, it must be admitted that the "parade of sovereignties" has had extremely controversial results in the Tyumen expanses also.

"Having become Federation components, we continue to treat the leadership of Tyumen Oblast with respect, but do not always reach understanding with it," L. Bayandin, head of Yamalo-Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug Administration, says. "In particular, it is campaigning for a common budget and wishes to control the natural and raw material resources on our territory, as it did in the past.

"But the world outside has changed. We already have our own budget. And we want to control our mineral reserves ourselves. However, advocating oblast territorial integrity as we do, we allocate the necessary resources for common programs for the medical support of citizens, for science, education, and aviation transport."

A. Filipenko, head of Khanti-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, noted quite correctly in addition to this that the existing agreement between the okrugs and the oblast is far from being perfected from a legal point of view. It needs to be finalized taking account of the changed conditions; in addition, all components should be prepared for compromise.

At the same time, mediation by government structures is necessary. Steps toward the regulation of relations between the oblast and okrugs have already been taken with the participation of Sergey Shakhray.

The publication of the joint appeal to oblast deputies at such a difficult time for Russia creates the hope that a rational compromise will at last be achieved between the three Federation components. The new agreement will facilitate the further development of the country's richest region. And Tyumen Oblast and its autonomous okrugs are precisely that.

Kabardin Assembly Repeals Decree on Russian Elections

MK2610140093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Kabardino-Balkaria"]

[Text] A session of the Kabardin People's Congress [KPC] made null and void a KPC Executive Committee decree calling upon the Kabardin people and the Supreme Soviet of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic [KBR] to take no part in the elections for the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

The KPC decided to take part in the elections for the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and a new parliament of the KBR. This was said to a NEGA correspondent by KPC Deputy Chairman Gubachikov. The KPC approved a decree of the KBR Supreme Soviet on the need to reform the supreme representative organ of the republic. The KPC simultaneously expressed the opinion that the work of the KBR Constitutional Court should be suspended until a new parliament goes to work.

As for preparing elections for a new KBR parliament, the priority now, as Gubachikov put it, are the questions of nominating the KPC's own candidates, on taking or not taking part in a bloc with the other parties and public movements of the KBR. Still open remains the question of support on the part of the KPC of specific political forces of Russia in the elections for the Federal Assembly. As Gubachikov pointed out, so far there have been no serious consultation on this subject with representatives of Russian political forces.

The KPC session also discussed the question of holding a regular congress of the Kabardin people. It was decided to hold it in December 1993 following elections for the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

Khakass, Novosibirsk Soviets Not To Disband

PM2610143393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Veklich report: "Soviets in Siberia Are Not Abdicating Their Authority, Although They Are Willing for New Elections"]

[Text] The political situation in Khakassia has outwardly remained unchanged since the well-known events of early October in Moscow. The republic's Supreme Soviet

is still the supreme organ of power here. The 10th session of the republic's parliament decided to extend the life of soviets of all levels in Khakassia until next March.

However, postponing elections until next spring does not mean that the republic's parliamentarians intend to hang onto their seats. The republic's KHAKASSIYA newspaper has published an appeal to the Supreme Soviet and the population asking them to make suggestions as to how citizens see reformed organs of representative and executive power and self-government organs.

No strong-arm methods are being employed toward people's representatives in another region of Siberia—Novosibirsk Oblast—either. As you know, the Novosibirsk Oblast Soviet is one of the few regional organs of representative power that did not previously accept the president's edict on stage-by-stage constitutional reform. However, the dramatic change in the situation has confronted Novosibirsk deputies with a choice. And Siberians' restraint and sensible thinking have gained the upper hand. The Novosibirsk Oblast Soviet deemed it necessary to stop confrontation and obey the Russian Federation president's laws and edict and adopt a decision on early elections, while considering the proposal on self-dissolution utterly unacceptable.

According to Vladimir Deyev, head of the oblast organization's supervisory directorate, the remaining soviets in conjunction with the local administration are engaged not in politics but in resolving pressing problems. Since they seem to have been forgotten in the heat of political passions. However, only emergency power and heat supply systems have been made ready ahead of the Siberian cold weather. The oblast does not have the requisite amount of fuel reserves. A tense situation is also developing as regards procurement of the new harvest. According to Deyev, 550,000 tonnes of grain will have to be procured to provide the population with bread.

Nevertheless political activeness is still fairly high among the people of Novosibirsk. According to a poll carried out in the oblast, 64 percent of the population will be willing to turn out to polling stations. The people of Novosibirsk want to see Ivan Anichkin, general director of the "Oksid" Production Association, and Academician Valentin Koptyug, president of the Russian Federation Academy of Sciences Siberian Department, among the possible candidates for supreme organs of state power.

Volga Republics Choose 'Own Way' To Reform

PM2610144193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 3

[Oleg Bedula and Aleksandr Bugay report: "Process Moves Along the Volga. Let It Not Lose Its Way Again"]

[Text] The Volga republics' reaction to the decision to reform the representative organs of power and organs of local self-government cannot be described as unequivocal. There is no overt opposition to the reform, but every region is choosing its own way of going about it.

Thus, by order of the Mariy El president a presidential administration staff has been set up to provide organizational and technical support for the election of deputies to the Federation Council and the State Duma. The state secretary of the Mariy El Republic has been appointed to head the staff. In connection with the reform the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium considers it necessary to hold early elections of organs of all levels on 18 March 1994.

A similar kind of staff has been convened in Chuvashia. Coordinating centers have also been set up at local level. "If we want to hold the elections in as organized a manner as possible, it is necessary to nip conflicts between the administration and the rayon soviets in the bud and perform this highly important work together; it is essential to rely more broadly on the experience of rayon deputies," M. Mudukov, the head of the republic staff and deputy chairman of the Chuvash Council of Ministers, noted.

In the opinion of M. Rakhimov, chairman of the Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet, the future state structures should be based on a strong presidential authority and a strong professional parliament. He thinks that the republic's new parliament should be called the State Assembly or State Kurultay of Bashkortostan.

The plan is to incorporate in the draft law soon to be adopted an item abolishing village and settlement soviets and appointing administration heads in these areas. Meanwhile small professional parliaments (of 15-20 people) will be set up in major cities and rayons, to be called respectively city and rayon state assemblies.

In Rakhimov's opinion, the post of president will make it possible to preserve stability in Bashkortostan regardless of events in Moscow. He also thinks that presidential and parliamentary elections should be held simultaneously.

The reaction in the Mordvinian Republic can be called somewhat more restrained. At any rate, people here are still in no hurry to wind up the soviets. Just one rural soviet has decided to disband. A session of the republic's Supreme Soviet has been held and resolved the question of reforming the organs of representative power.

Tatarstan President M. Shaymiyev has in turn submitted a program for the republic to take a "softly-softly" approach to joining the process of radically reforming organs of representative power. The present Supreme Soviet, the program says, will be replaced by a new organ of people's power—a bicameral legislative and representative assembly of just over 100 people. Local soviets will also be radically modernized. In the rural assemblies residents of villages and settlements will be able to elect esteemed people to a public committee under the head of the village or settlement administration.

Farmers Establish Two Agrarian Parties

WS2710095393 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by G. Razina: "Farmers Are Setting Up a Party"]

[Text] Well, the farmers have really surprised us! Who can say they are apolitical? In a little less than a month, two regional parties have emerged in our oblast—the Agrarian and the Peasant Parties. As we have already reported, founders of the first party were representatives of collective farms, while those of the other were individual farmers.

Last Thursday [14 October], 13 farmers—founders of the regional Russian Peasant Party [RPP] organization—gathered in the Oblast Administration building at 17 Kirov Street. Before adopting a decision, they engaged in an hour-long heated and interesting political debate, demonstrating their broad knowledge. They also discussed the necessity of uniting farmers into a political union and their representatives' participation in the election campaign.

Why are farmers establishing their own party when they have a regional Kaliningrad Oblast Peasant Association? Most of the peasants are disappointed with the work of this regional association which they believe no longer defends their interests. After nothing was left to distribute, the association engaged in commerce. Although trying to represent the interests of all agrarian producers without exception (as well as the Peasant Party), the Agrarian Party primarily meets the expectations of collective farms which speak out against the buying and selling of land. Meanwhile, the farmers' motto is: "For Free Labor on Free Land."

The decision to establish a regional RPP organization was adopted unanimously. Farmers D. Borodulin, V. Nuzhdin, and V. Rzhevskiy were elected to the party's council. "Young, active, and progressive" D. Borodulin, as he was called, became its chairman. All participants of the meeting received copies of the RPP program and statute. They will have to work in regional associations to attract new members to the Peasant Party.

International Affairs

Zlenko Comments on Nuclear Issue at News Conference

LD2610212293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Comment by Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko at news conference held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Kiev on 25 October—recorded]

[Text] I would like to say that it is impossible to talk about the Supreme Council's delaying the consideration of the nuclear issue. I would like to say that, on the contrary, the Supreme Council is studying every aspect of the forthcoming possible ratification of the START I Treaty very minutely indeed.

One can understand what are the consequences that arise for Ukraine after ratification. Today perhaps, it is about the implementation, rather than the ratification, of the START I. As far as our members of parliament, the Supreme Council, are concerned and our people in general, two issues arise, which are most important: The first issue is [word indistinct] be given appropriate guarantees of our national security in view of the evident instability around Ukraine and the second issue is providing us with appropriate financial and technological assistance. There is a directly proportional connection between ratification, settlement of the issue of provision of Ukraine with guarantees and financial aid, and specific implementation of START I. The sooner the settlement of the issue of provision of guarantees and financial aid is sped up, the sooner the implementation of the obligations, assumed by Ukraine, will begin. I have come to realize clearly that the American delegation, particularly the secretary of state, and we achieved understanding on these very issues. It would be desirable if the implementation of the accords we reached today could be stepped up.

Christopher, Zlenko Sign Nuclear Safety Accord

LD2610124993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Aleksey Petrunya, Aleksey Trotsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, October 26 TASS—An agreement between the Goverment of Ukraine and the United States to exhance the safety and lower the risk of civilian nuclear power facilities in Ukraine was signed in Kiev on Monday. The agreement was signed by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The document says that wishing to support the multilateral initiative on enhancing safe operation of nuclear facilities proclaimed on May 23, 1992 at the Lisbon meeting on coordination of aid to republics of the former Soviet Union, the sides agreed to cooperate to help Ukraine achieve a number of goals. They include enhancing safety by speedier working out of directives to cope with emergencies and developing a system of personnel training, lowering the risks involved in the operation of civilian nuclear facilities, and the adoption of consistent and effective standards of safety and procedure to be used by Ukrainian bodies supervising nuclear safety.

Official Clarifies Accord

LD2610201293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The framework agreement signed in Kiev by the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and the American Secretary of State Warren Christopher is a general document which defines the principles of destroying nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory. The statement was made at a Tuesday news conference by the head of the information department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Yuriy Sergeyev. He stressed that the agreement does not specify the types of missiles, nuclear fuel or the time of their withdrawal from Ukrainian territory.

In this context Sergeyev said other agreements might be signed defining individual provisions of the agreement. He said on Tuesday Ukrainian and American delegations continued negotiations on its implementation.

The agreement will come into force when diplomatic notes confirming the performance of all the necessary procedures are exchanged. Sergeyev did not rule out the possibility that the agreement will have to be ratified by the Ukrainian parliament. The agreement will remain valid for seven years.

Joint Nonproliferation Center Established

WS2610154693 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Representatives of the Canadian, Swedish, Ukrainian, and U.S. Governments signed in Kiev an agreement on establishing a scientific and technological center, NTTsU, whose purpose is to give the Ukrainian engineers and specialists employed in the military industry an opportunity to apply their knowledge and capabilities in civilian branches of the economy, thus reducing the threat [words indistinct] of nuclear weapons. All sides that signed the agreement committed themselves to allocating substantial funds to finance the center's projects. The United States of America is to earmark $10 million, Canada $2 million, and Sweden $1.5 million. Ukraine will be responsible for ensuring tax-exempt premises, equipment, services, and safety guarantees for the center. Proposals for the projects can be submitted by private individuals, organizations, or governments. They can be forwarded directly to governments of the countries that signed the agreement. The NTTsU will finance projects promoting the resolution of

national or international technological problems, supporting Ukraine's transition to the market economy and its basis, and applied research as well as encouraging technological development in the spheres of environmental protection, energy, nuclear security, and elimination of consequences of accidents at nuclear reactors. To implement the center's projects, its Board of Directors is planning to engage government and nongovernment organizations and private entrepreneurs from different countries.

Kiev Calls For Revision of Conventional Forces Treaty

LD2610231393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1936 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Ukraine has asked for a revision of the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Armaments in Europe.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry says a large proportion of armaments to be destroyed under the treaty, which was "a compromise between the two antagonistic blocs of those times," are stationed on the territory of the former Odessa Military District, accounting for 23 percent of Ukraine's total area.

The ministry says such restrictions are a serious obstacle to the normal functioning and deployment of the Ukrainian armed forces. In view of the political situation that has taken shape after the treaty was signed, Article 5 in it must be revised as soon as possible, it says.

Joint Space Project Under Way With Russia

LD2610154393 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0820 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Kharkov, 25 Oct—in an interview with the oblast television, the directors of the ("Khartron") production association provided information about the work of the association in the area of space research. The production association's participation in implementing a new project for building the world's most powerful rocket carrier, the "Energiya," is planned. They are developing the project under the name of "Kupon" together with their Russian colleagues. The main client is Russia's Central Bank. The aim of the project is to provide all Russian banks with satellite communication.

The directors of the association noted that there is very little future in independent Ukrainian cosmonautics.

Kiev: New Russian Parliament Needed for Black Sea Accord

LD2610153593 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1307 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent was informed at the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry on 26 October that the Ukrainian and Russian commissions of experts, formed to assess the value of the Black Sea Fleet and the sum of Ukraine's oil debt, had not completed their work yet. "Whatever the result of the work of the two commissions, the issue will only be settled by relevant documents ratified by both states' parliaments. As Russia has no parliament at this time, the fate of the fleet will remain unsettled until the Russians elect a new Supreme Soviet," explained Yuriy Serheyev, head of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry information service.

Kiev Considers Extending Yugoslav Peacekeeping Mission

LD2610233393 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev [dateline as received]—On 26 October a UNIAN correspondent learned from sources close to the leadership of the Ministry of Defense that proposals from the UN regarding extending Ukraine's participation in the UN peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia are to be found under examination by the Ukrainian Government. More military professional personnel will probably be included in the Ukrainian battalion and the proportional number of soldiers on military service will decrease. It is also planned to introduce a tough contract system with a term of service of no more than half a year in the peacekeeping battalion.

Plyshch Discusses Reforms With IMF Experts

WS2710095693 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch met today with a group of IMF experts led by Edward (Brau), deputy director of the IMF's Second European Department. The conversation touched upon certain issues concerning the implementation of economic reform in Ukraine, creation of the national credit and finance system, and use of foreign investments on a mutually beneficial basis.

National Affairs

Kravchuk's Comments on Internal Threat Viewed

PM2510122993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Polyakov: "Threat to Ukraine's Security Comes Not From Outside but Is Maturing Within the State, Ukrainian President and Parliamentarians Believe"]

[Text] Kiev—The discussion of various aspects of national security at the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session has shed considerable light on the position of the president and parliamentarians on the most important avenues of Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy. And perhaps one of its main results was the defeat of the Rukh-oriented deputies. It was they who insisted on

discussing national security problems and fueled passions around the mythical threat to Ukraine, unambiguously indicating Russia in this connection. It was they who demanded the closure of the "transparent" borders with the "Northern neighbor," the cancelling of the Black Sea Fleet agreement, and the withdrawal of the "foreign ships." And they hoped that the discussion of this question in parliament would help once more to brand "imperial Russia" and increase their prestige before the approaching elections.

President Leonid Kravchuk set forth the concept of national security. To all appearances he utterly unexpectedly poured cold water on the Rukh supporters whose populist slogans he had until recently supported. The threat to security, he stated, comes not from outside but is maturing within the republic. The plants at a standstill, hyperinflation, the people's impoverishment, the stratification of society—here is what is most terrible today to Ukraine's stability and independence. One kilogram of meat at the market costs about 80,000 coupons while the wages of workers and employees fluctuate from 100,000 coupons to 300,000 in rare cases. At the same time in commercial structures they receive up to 1.5 million a month. That is not surprising. State money totalling 27 trillion has settled with the "commercial dealers" yet the state cannot find the money to buy the rural workers' output.

Russia for us is not simply a source of energy carriers, not only a neighbor and great power, it is a source of peace and stability in an enormous region and throughout the world, President Kravchuk stressed. His speech was accompanied by approbatory cries and the president was seen off with applause. Which, for present times, is extremely rare.

Realism and common sense, as we can see, are gaining the upper hand. Nonetheless a certain disharmony is introduced by Ukraine's intention to remain a nuclear power for some indefinite period and to retain 46 strategic missiles on its territory.

Ministry Urges Reevaluation of Chernobyl Safety

WS2710094193 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 20 Oct 93 p 3

[Statement issued by Ministry of Environmental Protection in Kiev; date not given: "On the Edge of Incorrigibility"]

[Text] Over recent days, certain influential forces in Ukraine have once again begun to question the expediency of the Chernobyl nuclear plant's closure, claiming that the plant's reactors comply with all worldwide standards and production costs for electricity generated by the plant are almost half that of power produced by thermal-electric plants. In connection with this, the press center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection has been authorized to state the following:

The Chernobyl power plant was constructed in accordance with a design that had not been judged to conform with existing security standards. Elementary deficiencies in the design include:

—the inefficiency of systems designed to prevent the emission of radioactive substances and ionized radiation into the surrounding environment, which is connected with the lack of a system to detect malfunctions (a hermetically sealed reactor);

—construction faults in the emergency protection system, which means, under certain working conditions, that there is no way to quickly or efficiently stop a nuclear chain reaction;

—the extensive ratio of positive steam reactivity, which along with inadequate water cooling could lead to a rapid increase in the reactor's swing power.

Following the breakdown of the Chernobyl plant, the general designer (the Research and Design Institute of Energy Technology) and scientific director (the Kurchatov Institute of Nuclear Energy) immediately undertook certain urgent measures to improve the security of nuclear power plants using RBMK [expansion unknown] reactors. Those measures were successfully conducted, and as a result:

—the steam reactivity ratio was lowered considerably;

—the speed with which a chain reaction could be extinguished was improved due to the introduction of a rapid emergency protection system.

However, as of today, the secure operation of such reactors has not been completely ascertained and cannot be entirely guaranteed. The lack of a malfunction detecting system, and the possibility—under certain circumstances—of equipment failures and human error, as well as the probability of damage to the reactor active zone, which could cause a disastrous release of radioactive substances into the surrounding environment, compel us to consider the Chernobyl reactors hazardous.

Those conclusions were confirmed by the October 1991 fire at the Chernobyl facility, when the situation at the second unit reactor was almost as critical as in 1986 due to difficulties in extinguishing the fire, equipment defects, and staff errors.

Equipment at the Chernobyl plant, including the central control system, emergency protection system, etcetera, has exhausted its capabilities. Since certain components of the equipment are no longer produced, difficulties in making new equipment conform with old occur every time a replacement is required. There is no metal-aging control system as well.

Personnel at the Chernobyl facility, who were completely replaced in 1987-1988, do not have adequate experience in handling complicated, emergency situations in RBMK reactors. There is no comprehensive training

program that would help to develop the necessary skills to sufficiently handle emergency situations.

The power plant has not developed a secure operating program, including an analysis of the already conducted security measures, even though it has obtained permission from the State Nuclear Inspection office for routine operation of the first and third power units.

The economic justification for the expediency of Chernobyl's operation does not stand the test of criticism, since estimates of the Chernobyl plant's operation and production do not include:

—increased fuel prices (at the moment, the plant uses fuel bought in 1991 at old prices);

—the necessity of building a new storage container for spent fuel;

—expenses for the liquidation of the aftermath of the 1986 breakdown, which are a burden to the state (annual expenditures comprise 10 percent of gross national product).

Taking the above into consideration, the position of the Ministry of Environmental Protection is clear: The Chernobyl plant should be closed in accordance with the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution.

Nevertheless, the critical economic and sociopolitical situation that has developed in Ukraine requires that this issue be reexamined. This must be done, however, not through false and declarative statements regarding the security or profitability of the Chernobyl facility, but through an examination of objective assessments and expert appraisals of all the possible effects of the continued operation of RBMK-type reactors.

Only under such conditions can the issue of temporarily suspending the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution on closing Chernobyl be thoroughly investigated. In any other case, attempts to deceive Ukrainian citizens and deputies may lead to new Chernobyls.

Reasons for Defense Minister's Replacement Pondered

AU2610130093 Kiev UKRAYINSKA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 17 (34), 21 Oct-3 Nov 93 p 8

[Article by Colonel Mykola Bilovil, UKRAYINSKA HAZETA military columnist: "The Changing of of Guard, and Mr. Lemish Is Crying Bloody Murder. Certain Considerations About the Post of Defense Minister"]

[Text] Something that nobody expected happened: The president dismissed Ukraine's Minister of Defense Colonel General Kostyantyn Petrovych Morozov from his post.

Officially, it was done at the minister's own request. As reported by the ministry's Press Center, the request was only issued in order to avoid confrontation in the Supreme Council session during discussion of Kostyantyn Morozov's tenure of office and also in order to avoid a split, on this occasion, among parties, movements, and currents. Of course, this sounds ridiculous, especially considering what kind of post is in question.

In accordance with HOLOS UKRAYINY's point of view, everything happened due to General Morozov's principled position on the Black Sea Fleet issue. He was categorically opposed to selling it to Russia and was in favor of dividing it and withdrawing the Russian Naval Forces from Ukraine.

It is very alarming that the minister was dismissed from his duties precisely at that difficult time when nobody knew how the new putsch in Russia would end and when there emerged in Russia a real threat of a civil war, which could quite easily cross the so-called "transparent" borders to our country. Proceeding from these considerations, it is difficult to follow the logic of our president's actions. To deprive the Ukrainian Army of its head at such a crucial moment is, in my opinion, akin to deliberately undermining our independence.

Let us, however, leave the analysis of this situation to future historians. I want only to say that the extremely important post has been left by a person who has forever remained in our state's history. Kostyantyn Morozov was the founder of Ukraine's Armed Forces. For more than two years they were built under his leadership. How they were built—much can be said on the subject today. Some people say that we are still maintaining Europe's largest army, one we cannot properly dress, feed, or arm. According to some evidence, Ukraine is presently spending 225 billion karbovantsi on maintaining its Armed Forces.

If this is so, then why? The first reason lies in the fact that our much esteemed Supreme Council did not find it possible to elaborate and adopt a military doctrine without which nobody has the right to reduce the army by a single soldier, a single subunit, or a single unit.

What does the defense minister have to do with it?

Meanwhile, Valentyn Lemish, chairman of the Supreme Council Standing Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security, in his article entitled "Defense and Democracy" that was published in DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA immediately after the dismissal of Kostyantyn Morozov from his post, accused him, as they say, of all mortal sins. Lemish accused him, in particular, of the fact that documents on the legal basis of Ukraine's Armed Forces had been prepared in haste, with an excessive stress upon the ideology and without taking into account the state's actual economic possibilities. Also, he wrote, nothing was done in order to provide Ukraine with small but mobile troops equipped with modern weapons. According to Lemish, it turns out that Morozov was responsible for the hasty abolishment

of the Kiev Military District, collapse of military education, and for the fact that we do not have plants capable of independently manufacturing weapons, and do not have enough proving grounds for testing them or training grounds for the troops. As regards the amalgamation of the Air Force and Air Defense, this has rendered the two types of troops completely ineffective.

Kostyantyn Morozov is also blamed for hasty reshuffling, appointment of incompetent people to high posts, and introduction of the system of one-sided indoctrination of personnel exclusively proceeding from the traditions of the Cossackdom and the Ukrainian Insurrection Army.

The following is the verdict pronounced by Mr. Lemish, one of the Supreme Council's leaders: "It must be admitted that, today, the state is not only unable to ensure the development of its own new Armed Forces, but even to maintain their combat readiness at the level of the last (1992) year. In other words, everything that we had has been destroyed and nothing new has been created."

No more and no less! The minister of defense is the destroyer and not the builder of the Ukrainian Army.

This allegation is simply ridiculous!

However, the reader of this nonsense cannot help asking two questions: First, where was the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Ukraine's president himself? Second: Where was the high Commission for Questions of Defense and National Security headed by Valentyn Lemish?

It is very easy to find a scapegoat, put the whole blame on him, and also feel like a hero: We are so courageous and determined. We are not afraid to tell the whole bitter truth to the dismissed minister. We already completed this course more than once. One can only regret that the methods and approaches of the Stalinist and Brezhnevite times have also been found suitable in new allegedly democratic conditions.

If Morozov made such serious errors in his work, why didn't anybody correct him in time? Because of fear? Unlikely. Rather, the trailblazing minister's actions were quietly watched. His every step resembled that of a minesweeper. If he moves further—fine. If he doesn't, we'll find somebody to replace him.

The patriot minister fulfilled his duties of building the Ukrainian military-defense complex conscientiously and honestly. At the same time, those who were supposed to help him in every way waited patiently for him to fail. They even had him bound hand and foot and devastated the draft military he doctrines submitted, even though it was neither Morozov's nor his ministry's job to elaborate the doctrines. That is the prerogative of the Cabinet of Ministers and of the Chief Commander's apparatus. The same applies to the military budget, although Mr. Lemish is admonishing Colonel General Morozov for its poor substantiation. It is up to the military to ask for as much as they consider necessary, and it is up to the government to either offer less or fulfill this request in full. However, today, Morozov is also blamed for this. No money was given; the Armed Forces needed that money.

When it was necessary to help the minister with something, they were silent. Leonid Kuchma was not even ashamed to state that he did not know what minister Morozov did and where he went. Lemish did not find it necessary to support UKRAYINSKA HAZETA or other periodicals that were categorically against uniting the Air Force and the Air Defense. With his tacit support, Kostyantyn Morozov turned this idea, now denounced as wrong, into a presidential edict. Of course, it is easier for Lemish to accuse Morozov than to share with him the responsibility for the state of our Armed Forces. I repeat that it was also impossible to abolish a whole military district or to ruin the military education without the consent of Lemish's commission.

Lemish proposes in his aforementioned article that Ukraine have a civilian defense minister, as in the United States, Great Britain, or Germany. Isn't this the purpose of the polemical enthusiasm of the esteemed chairman of a Supreme Council's commission? Doesn't he himself aim at the ministerial seat? The present deputies corps is living its last days and many of the deputies are already preparing cushy jobs for themselves.

Today, our trailblazing military man is out of favor. Nobody knows why. The brief report on the presidential edict did not make things any clearer, rather, it made the case even more vague, t! :reby allowing us to conjecture.

The parliamentary opposition, the Black Sea Fleet, the inadequacies in building the Armed Forces.... Where is the defense minister's actual mistake? I, personally, and many servicemen and civilians cannot help feeling that the actions against him were unjustified. He is not someone to be treated like a pawn on the chess board.

It is true that prior to issuing the presidential edict, Ukraine's Security Council held a meeting. There, in the presence of high-ranking military figures, the question of the defense minister's resignation in accordance with his own request was considered. However, even there the truth was not disclosed.

Kostyantyn Petrovych has locked himself up at home, does not meet with anyone, and gives no interviews to journalists. Nor has he responded to UKRAYINSKA HAZETA's request, although, in the past, he shared his ideas with it.

It was difficult for him.

It will also be difficult for his successor. Because this post, like that of the prime minister, is also meant for a kamikaze.

Within a few days after dismissing Colonel General Morozov, the president had no difficulty passing through

the parliament the candidature of Colonel General Vitaliy Hryhorovych Radetskyy, commander of the Odessa Military District, to the ministerial post. He is 49 years old. **He was born in Cherkasy Oblast. A graduate of the Kiev Higher General-Command School (1968), the Frunze Military Academy (1975), and the Academy of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces (1989). He started service as a platoon commander. In 1970-89 he commanded a company, a battalion, and a regiment. In 1989-91—first deputy commander of the army in the Ciscarpathian Military District. In May 1991 to January 1992—commander of the tank army in the Odessa Military District. Since January 1992—commander of the Odessa Military District.**

He does not speak Ukrainian, although in his program, about which he spoke before the parliament, he promised to introduce the Ukrainian language to the troops. However, the subordinates will follow the example of the superiors.

He has two sons. The elder one, Oleksandr, is 19 year old and studies at a military school and the younger, Serhiy, is a 12 year old schoolboy.

...Kostyantyn Morozov, the first defense minister of independent Ukraine, visited the United States, Great Britain, France, and NATO, where he established military and personal contacts. He was seen as the thinking, efficient, and knowledgeable minister of a free European state—Ukraine. Will the newly appointed minister make a new round of trips? Will he have enough time for that? In a little more than half a year, there will be new presidential elections. There may be changes or, perhaps, everything will remain the same. Let us hope that things will not get worse.

I personally believe that Kostyantyn Morozov's star, as a military or state figure, will not disappear from independent Ukraine's horizon.

Adm Baltin Declines To Run for Presidency in Crimea

LD2610101593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaysky]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin declined to be nominated for the presidency in the Crimea as proposed by some local public and political organisations and movements, ITAR-TASS learned from sources close to the Black Sea Fleet General Staff.

According to the same sources, Admiral Baltin said it was inadvisable and inadmissible to spend much time on the election campaign away from his main job at a time when the fleet was facing so many complications and difficulties.

Cabinet Studies Fuel, Economy, Education Reports

LD2610202593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers held a meeting, chaired by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, today, 25 October. Heads of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of the Crimea and regional, Kiev, and Sevastopol bodies of state administration were invited to attend it.

Economy Minister Shpek delivered a report on the degree of the implementation of the Ukrainian president's directive on corporatization of enterprises. It was pointed out that most ministries and departments were working in that respect with due responsibility. It was decided at the meeting that the existing shortcomings should be eliminated and certain enforcible enactments should be drawn up or made more specific. Ministry and department heads were obligated to have the course of the implementation of the directive under everyday control.

A draft of the concept of the development of Ukraine's fuel and energy complex up until the year 2010, in particular, works out the state requirements for energy resources and the volume of Ukraine's own production of them, as well as the substantiation of ways to ensure the supply to the national economy. The main principles of the development of the fuel and energy complex are determined. They are the greatest possible use of Ukraine's own potential, comprehensive utilization of natural resources, reduction in technocracy, and active pursuit of the policy of energy conservation.

Deputy Economy Minister Minin presented a draft state program for the encouragement of foreign investments in Ukraine. Its main tasks are the making of a state policy and formation of a legal basis in this field to stimulate the inflow of foreign investments to Ukraine and their effective use to restructure the economy.

Once duly finalized, both the drafts that were considered are to be submitted to the Supreme Council.

Vice Prime Minister Landyk delivered a report on the results of the work of a commission, formed on the instructions of the president to verify the size and clarify the circumstances of the occurrence of the national debt of Ukraine to the Russian Federation. The report was examined. To examine all the details of this matter, it was decided that the term of the commission's work should be extended.

Participants in the meeting examined and approved in principle the Osvita Ukrainian state national program for the 21st century and measures to implement it. Education Minister Talanchuk spoke on this issue. The program was also approved by a congress of Ukrainian pedagogical workers and scientific, legal, economic, and financial analysis of it had been carried out. Its main purpose is developing the national system of education

with radical changes in the socio-economic and spiritual life of Ukraine taken into consideration; raising educational levels to match those of the world's developed countries taking account of the need for the fullest possible use of the achievements of the scientific and technological progress.

Transcarpathian Leadership Waives Debate on Autonomy

LD2510182993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The issue of declaring Transcarpathia a special self-governing administrative territory, as a legal entity within the independent Ukraine, has been taken off the agenda of a regular session of the Regional Council, which is to take place on 29 October. This has been done at the request of the Ukrainian Supreme Council standing commissions, in view of the fact that the Ukrainian Supreme Council, in the very near future, is planning to consider a draft law on a Europe Center [name as received] special free economic zone in Transcarpathian Oblast. Relinquishing the debate on this issue will no doubt contribute to the situation in the region, that has been under threat, remaining stable.

The regional deputies' intention to jump ahead of the Ukrainian Supreme Council in determining Transcarpathia's status had a varying reception in the region. Supporters of autonomy, who regard the notion of self-government as synonymous, all but applauded in expectation of power and leadership seats changing hands. Their opponents accused the Regional Council of separatism and infringement upon the territorial integrity of the state.

The Civic Committee for Fighting Separatism, formed recently, has staged a number of rallies, gatherings and other actions against the Regional Council's intention to reconsider Transcarpathia's status. In its address to the Supreme Council, the Ukrainian Transcarpathian People's Council, with a membership of around 20 public and political associations of Ukrainian orientation, pointed out that the style of separatists' work was methodically and consistently anti-Ukrainian.

In a nutshell, the issue of self-government might have become a dangerous apple of contention in the multinational region. It is good to know that common sense prevailed and deputies decided that the developments should not be forced.

Belarus

U.S Secretary of State Christopher Continues Visit

Meets Officials, Holds News Conference

WS2610135193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has arrived in Minsk on an official visit. He has held negotiations with Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, and Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka. Later, the U.S. Secretary of State held a press conference for journalists. Mr. Christopher has positively assessed the democratization of our society. He congratulated the Republic for its independence and sovereignty and stated that relations between the United States and Belarus are developing vigorously. The U.S. Secretary of State has approved the idea of holding early Supreme Soviet elections. According to Mr. Christopher, the purpose of the visit is the reduction of nuclear arsenals and the support of the policy of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus for nonproliferation of nuclear arms.

Briefs Shushkevich on NATO Cooperation

LD2610145493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By BELINFORM correspondents Vladimir Glod and Aleksandr Lishkevich]

[Text] Minsk October 26 TASS—The Belarusian leader believes the plan of US President Bill Clinton allowing his country to participate in certain joint activities with NATO does not contradict the neutral status proclaimed by the former Soviet republic.

"Today we have seen that this does not contradict in any way our constitutional law on military neutrality", Stanislav Shushkevich said after meeting visiting US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday and added that Clinton's plan would be thoroughly and attentively studied.

During the meeting with Shushkevich and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, Christopher informed them about the Clinton's initiative known as "Partnership for Peace" programme, according to which Belarus can cooperate with NATO in such spheres as joint planning, joint exercises and undertake other steps to mount cooperation with the North Atlantic organisation.

Christopher believes this may enhance Belarusian security as it will be able to consult NATO countries in case there is a threat to its sovereignty.

"We fully share the concern about the fate of Europe and hope that a variant of worthy interaction of countries which are memebrs of military blocs and are outside military blocs will be found", Shushkevich said.

Further on Talks in Minsk

LD2610163493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher paid an official visit to the Republic of Belarus today and held talks with the republican leadership. The main topics covered the development of bilateral relations, issues of nuclear security, an increase in U.S. investments in the Belarusian economy and other topical problems.

It was noted that Belarus and the United States have signed more than 20 agreements of military-political and military-strategic importance.

Emphasis is currently placed on consolidating scientific and technical cooperation. It was stressed that Belarus was unswervingly implementing its international obligations, strictly keeping to its policy of attaining a status of a nuclear-free and neutral state.

Warren Christopher familiarized Belarusian leaders with U.S. President Clinton's statement on NATO. The U.S. President presented a new program called Partnership for Peace.

Further on News Conference

LD2610164293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Vladimir Glod and Aleksandr Lyushkevich for TASS]

[Text] Minsk October 26 TASS—U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher, currently here on an official visit, told a news conference here today the U.S. wants to render support to Belarus, a dynamic state which carries out democratic reforms and actively develops bilateral relations with the United States.

The major aim of Christopher's Commonwealth tour is the reduction of nuclear arsenals and encouragement of states that are adherent to the policy of non-proliferation of nuclear arms. In his words, Minsk has done more in this respect than other states.

The state secretary confirmed the U.S. is interested in development of democratic processes in Belarus to manifest themselves in early elections of the republican Supreme Soviet in spring 1994. Christopher assured the U.S. is ready to render technical assistance to the elections.

Asked whether the U.S. is ready to help Belarus to eliminate conventional arms remaining on its territory from armies of the former soviet Union, the state secretary said this problem is discussed not only in Minsk but also in Washington where a Belarusian delegation headed by Defence Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy is staying.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Visits Minsk

WS2610135993 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] We wish to develop the political and economic relations between Belarus and Vietnam on a wider scale. This is the aim of our visit to Belarus, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Mann Cam said. Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich received the Vietnamese guests. During the talks, the Vietnamese foreign minister assured Shuskevich of the sincere intentions of Vietnam to develop and bolster the friendship and cooperation between the people of Belarus and Vietnam. The same day, Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka received the Vietnamese delegation. Both parties have signed a (consular?) agreement and an agreement on cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of Belarus and Vietnam. During their stay in Belarus, the Vietnamese diplomats will meet with Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Kostikav [name and title as heard]. Ho Huan Nghiem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Vietnam to Belarus, was present at the talks.

Order Issued on Military Service by Officer Corps

LD2610181293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Following the Council of Ministers resolution on the autumn release into the reserve and the latest call-up, by a corresponding order of the head of the Defense Department, No. 372 of 13 October, the position was made public on the carrying out of military service by the Armed Forces Officer Corps of the Republic of Belarus, that came into force on 30 September 1993.

This document occupies almost three pages of the newspaper VO SLAVU RODINIY. It regulates the order of awarding, lowering, relieving of, and restoring officers' and generals' military titles, stipulates criteria for selection of candidacies for posts, transfers and promotions in service, sets out the tasks of certification, and standardizes the length of leave, and also the order for release from regular military service, defines size of financial assistance on that, and describes the regulation for carrying out service in the reserve and in military units.

Officers called up for staff military service from the reserve in accordance with Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus on Universal Military Duty and Military Service will, as previously, serve two years. Then, after the completion of the two-year term, if they wish, and if there are the corresponding vacant posts, they may be taken on the staff on contract for not less than three years or be released on the order of the defense minister at the end of the term and ahead of term. For example, they can be released ahead of term because of illness on the grounds of conclusion of a military medical commission on unsuitability or limited suitability, because of incompetence in his job, family and other circumstances that hamper the fulfillment of service duty, and also on reduction of the staff, and for actions that bring dishonor on the soldier's title.

The scheduled military ranks of reserve officers called up to the Armed Forces staff are awarded by the defense minister, in set order on completion of the term of service in the previous rank, and only on the condition of positive certification. [Words indistinct] Lieutenant—graduate of a military school—if everything goes well—in theory can become a general over approximately 20 years, while a lieutenant included on the staff from the reserve under similar circumstances—over approximately 25 years. Considering that before that he will have to be a lieutenant for three years, four years as a senior lieutenant and captain each, five years a major, and six years a lieutenant colonel. One can become a colonel only on completion of a six-year term of service at the rank of lieutenant colonel, with special training, and of course given the availability of the corresponding rank on the staff position.

In accordance with the Council of Ministers resolution of 10 September 1993, the regulations on the carrying out of military service by the Armed Forces Officer Corps of the Republic of Belarus affect the Officer Corps in internal, border troops, troops of the Committee for State Security and civil defense, and also other troop formations that are created in accordance with current legislation.

Government Adopts Additional Privatization Measures

WS2610135793 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich headed a session of the Cabinet of Ministers held in the House of Government. The participants of the session discussed the issue of additional measures for carrying out privatization of state property in the Republic of Belarus. Regarding the Kebich proposal, the appropriate state structures have been obliged to work out a detailed mechanism for privatization foreseeing the recalculation of incomes for the benefit of the bodies that will become owners of the property. Some other issues such as the protection of public order and the fight against crime have been also touched upon at the Cabinet session. Corresponding decisions on the issues have been adopted.

Government Pledges To Curtail Inflation to 10%

LD2710093893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 27 Oct 93

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk October 27 TASS—the Belarusian Government pledged to curtail monthly inflation to 10 per cent by the end of the year and to further curb it in 1994.

First Deputy Prime minister Mikhail Myasnikovich told the "SOVETSKAYA BELARUSIA" newspaper before leaving for Paris to attend a meeting of the consultative group of international financial institutions under the aegis of the World Bank, that the government had canceled all subsidies to processing industries, had liberalised the trade regime by decreasing the list of licenced and quoted exports and abolishing excise on many exported goods.

He added that licencins and quoting of exports is to be lifted completely by the end of the year.

Komsomol Chief Discusses Goals, Activities

WS2710095293 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 20 Oct 93 p 2

[Interview with Sergey Voznyak, first secretary of the Belarusian Komsomol Central Committee, by Lieutenant A. Makarov; place and date not given—first paragraph is VO SLAVU RODINY introduction]

[Text] According to our records, the Belarusian Leninist Communist Youth Union is a social and political organization uniting young men and women who adhere to the socialist ideal and the communist concept of social development. Its reconstituent congress was held in February of 1992. Membership and due cards, as well as badges of the former Komsomol have been preserved as formal attributes.

[Makarov] **Sergey, what is the difference between the current Komsomol and the previous one?**

[Voznyak] The Komsomol in the 1970's and 1980's was no longer a Leninist or communist organization. It withdrew from politics completely and engaged in tourism, recreation, and other public work projects, at best. We have restored the Komsomol to the form it had when formed in October 1918. Actually, we constitute the youth wing of the Belarusian Communist Party.

[Makarov] **Yes, but we already had all this—Octobrists, Pioneers, Komsomol members, and communists. Does this not remind you of a production line?**

[Voznyak] We have been trained to such an "assembly line" for years. Honestly, party membership played an important role in career making. Expanding its ranks, the party often treated its people as nothing more than ordinary "cogs" in a machine. It is for this reason that a moment arrived when the former system became outdated. As for us, we do not want to be like the former Komsomol or force anyone to join our organization.

[Makarov] **Nevertheless, are your ranks growing?**

[Voznyak] When we held our constituent congress two years ago, our organization had only 25 members; we now have over 400. We have established 13 Komsomol organizations in different cities and regions. Our organizations in the oblasts will emerge soon.

[Makarov] **All this is good. However, there are thousands upon thousands of Belarusian young people. Many people associate their image, as a rule, with a young person selling clothes at the "Dinamo" stadium or reselling hard currency....**

[Voznyak] Unfortunately, such an image is objective and not invented. I personally think that all this is transitory. There are more immortal values than trading "Snickers," dollars, or marks.

Today, we can still resell what accumulated during Soviet rule. These young people are completely wrong to think that such activities will help us survive the economic recession. Old resources will run out one day, and young people will find themselves back where they started. Undoubtedly, some people will become rich, but there will be very few of them. Most people will find themselves on the street. Looking around, young boys and girls will realize that they have been deprived of all economic, political, social, and spiritual rights. It is for this reason that we are calling on young people to stand up for these rights and interests. Certainly, we still lack power, but I will admit honestly that I see a perspective and believe in the future of Belarusian youth. And not only Belarusian youth.

We maintain close contacts with the Russian and Ukrainian Komsomol, and have relations with Polish and Hungarian youth organizations.... In November, our delegation is going to Ukraine to participate in a meeting of leaders of communist youth organizations from Central and East Europe.

[Makarov] **One cannot seek any goals, even the most insignificant, without certain ideals.**

[Voznyak] Our key ideal is honest, highly skilled, and well-paid labor. Labor for the benefit of our homeland and nation.

Service in the Armed Forces is also difficult but honorable and responsible labor. I regret that not all young men are honest in fulfilling their duty to the state. Can you show me at least one young businessman who has served in the Army? The latter has actually become a member of the army of workers and farmers. What equal rights and commitments can we speak about then?

[Makarov] **Sergey, the Belarusian Komsomol is the only political youth organization in the Republic. Why don't you unite with other social organizations which engage in charity, young people's employment, and their social security? This would bring real benefit.**

[Voznyak] Well, it is good that such organizations exist. They engage in noble deeds. We support them and try to participate in similar activities as much as we can. However, this will not help us solve the problem radically. First of all, Belarus must create such conditions under which people will need neither soup kitchens nor homeless shelters. This can be achieved by political

methods alone. It is only then that a young person will be able to build his or her own life.

[Makarov] **Under the provisions of the current law, the state does not render financial support to organizations pursuing political goals.**

[Voznyak] This is really the case. Our budget consists of membership duties, citizens' voluntary donations, and sponsors' money. Although these finances are often insufficient, we work as we can.

Moldova

Parliament Authorizes Snegur To Sign CIS Accord

AU2710062493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Mircea Dascălu] report from Chisinau]

[Text] The Parliament Presidium of the Republic of Moldova, which ensures the current activities of this legislative body until the next parliament is set up, adopted in today's meeting a decision whereby it approves that President Mircea Snegur sign the foundation accord of the CIS states and the treaty on the creation of the CIS economic union. It also proposed that these two documents be examined in a later ordinary session.

During the discussions, this decision was motivated by the current participation of the government of the Republic of Moldova in more than 200 multilateral accords and treaties that regulate questions of an economic, social, and legal nature, as well as by its cooperation with more than 30 interstate bodies stipulated in the statute of the CIS states. It was assessed that the postponement, by virtue of certain circumstances, of the ratification of the two documents in question, along with the uncertain judicial status of the Republic of Moldova among the CIS members states, have led to limited cooperation possibilities with those states and have reduced the chances of buying energy sources, fuel, and raw materials needed by the Republic of Moldova.

It was also assessed that this situation exerts a negative influence on the conclusion of economic accords for 1994 and on markets for selling the Moldovan products, which are delivered to the Russian Federation. The meeting also emphasized the fact that the participation by the Republic of Moldova in the activity of the aforementioned bodies is imposed by reason.

Also today in Chisinau, President Mircea Snegur met with leadership representatives of the Russian community in the Republic of Moldova. During this meeting, the two sides discussed problems faced by this community, including difficulties in studying the state language—that is, the Romanian language. Mr. Mircea Snegur assured the representatives that all these shortfalls would be solved in accordance with possibilities and greeted the fact that the members of the Russian community were aware of the need to speak the state language, and that they have proved active participants in the process of democratizing society and consolidating the state independence of the Republic of Moldova.

One last piece of news—General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army that is deployed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, and Colonel (?Mihai Bergman), commander of the Tiraspol Garrison, returned from Moscow today.

Informed sources have informed us that the two had talks with representatives of the higher military leadership of the Russian Federation.

Snegur Promises Constitutional Protection for Dniester

LD2610211693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1732 GMT 26 Oct 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] At a meeting with spokesmen for the Gagauz People's Party, President Mircea Snegur promised that Moldova's new professional parliament, to be elected on February 27th of next year, will adopt a new constitution and determine the status of areas populated largely by members of the Gagauz minority.

The party represents various sectors of the population. It aims to promote cultural revival and eliminate socio-economic backwardness. Its spokesmen told the president that members of the Gagauz minority will take part in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

As Mircea Snegur said, at next year's parliamentary elections the voters will have to display discernment. "Candidates with populist platforms have few chances to become deputies," the president said.

According to Snegur, it's particularly important for those who live in the left-bank areas (Dneister) to take part in the early parliamentary elections. He let this be known at his recent meeting with the director of the secretariat of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Oliver Spencer, in Chisinau.

The first step toward normalizing relations between Chisinau and Tiraspol would be to hand the group of Popular Front activists, led by Ilie Ilascu and being held in Tiraspol on charges of terrorism, over to Moldova's judiciary, Mircea Snegur said.

The president invited observers from the CSCE to observe the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Tiu's 'Demotion' to Envoy to U.S. Seen as 'Ploy'

MK2610142593 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 70, 26 Oct 93 (signed to press 25 Oct) p 4

[Dmitriy Zhdannikov report in the "Diplomacy" column: "Moldova's Foreign Minister Dismissed From His Post and Sent as Ambassador to United States"]

[Text] On 21 October Moldovan President Mircea Snegur signed an edict on opening the republic's embassy in the United States of America and appointed Moldova's ambassador to Washington.

This fact as such would not have aroused special interest had someone else been named to the ambassador's post. The ambassador to the United States is Nicolae Tiu, who only a day prior to his new appointment was foreign minister. The president's edict does not explain the reason for such a reshuffle. No substantiation was called for, however, since the origin of the discontent with the former foreign minister within the presidential structures is crystal-clear.

The foreign political department headed by Nicolae Tiu has more than once expressed a special opinion on the issue of relations with Russia, one which does not correspond to the presidential line. President Snegur was finally convinced about the need for a decisive political step by Nicolae Tiu's 8 October statement in the UN General Assembly. There again (this time in sharper terms) he offered a negative comment on Russia's "imperial ways" and also demanded that all foreign troops leave Moldova's territory unconditionally before the end of 1994. Of the foreign troops on the state's territory today there is only the 14th Russian Army located in the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic.

While President Snegur was thinking about what to do with a minister who had allowed himself to advocate such positions, Moscow immediately sent an official protest to Cisinau. Naturally, it primarily drew attention to the accords between Snegur and Yeltsin with respect to the status of the 14th Russian Army which were reached at the leaders meeting in May. "Under these accords, the 14th Army is to remain in the region as a peace-keeping contingent, while the objective of the Russian-Moldovan interstate delegation will be to define the status of the Russian troops and a gradual elaboration of procedures for their withdrawal," the statement said.

After analyzing the situation that had developed around the self- proclaimed Dniester Republic following the revolt in Moscow and also the reversed position by 14th Army Commander General Lebed, the Moldovan authorities preferred not to force the process of its pullout. Indeed, after Gen. Lebed stated that the statehood of the Dniester Republic was going through a crisis following the loss of powerful support from the Russian parliamentarians, Minister Tiu's charges that the 14th Army command was a breeding ground for separatism were no longer relevant. In fact, the offices of the 14th Army may come in handy when at the end of the year, according to Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, the republic will become "single and indivisible."

Nicolae Tiu's fall from grace, however, cannot be seen as the end of his career. His appointment as the republic's ambassador to the United States (according to the Foreign Ministry's informal table of precedence, this is in fact the second most important position in the ministry) is a kind of political ploy. And if the settlement of the Dniester-Moldovan conflict suddenly gets bogged down while Russia-Moldova relations again develop a rift over the status of foreign troops, decisive actions and ways to influence the Washington administration may be required from Ambassador Tiu.

Kazakhstan

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Ends Visit

Visits Aktay

LD2610162693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] On the last stage of his trip to Kazakhstan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today arrived at the city of Aktay, on the coast of the Caspian Sea, and was welcomed at that city's airport by the officials of Mangistay Province.

In this visit, local officials briefed the president on industrial and technical advances. After visiting Aktay city, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani ended his three-day trip to Kazakhstan.

Signs Economic, Trade Agreements

LD2710085193 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Almaty, Oct. 27, IRNA—Iran and Kazakhstan signed a letter of understanding for the expansion of commercial and economic cooperation here Tuesday.

The 13-article agreement was signed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev at the conclusion of the former's visit to Kazakhstan.

The two sides underlined the importance of the joint commission for commercial, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.

Tehran and Almaty also agreed to connect their railways to the Asian railway network and vowed to expand marine transportation and establish flight link between the two capitals.

The agreement also envisaged traffic of vehicles of the two countries to each other's territory as well as transit traffic to a third country.

The two countries also expressed willingness for the opening of a branch of Iran's "Bank Saderat" in Almaty in a near future.

Iran and Kazakhstan underlined the need for space cooperation to meet scientific, research and economic needs of both the countries.

Expressing willingness to establish Iran-Kazakhstan joint chamber of commerce, both countries underscored cooperation among littoral states of the Caspian Sea and believed that ties in the framework of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) could play an outstanding role in expansion of multilateral ties among regional countries.

The two sides also attached great importance to political consultations for the settlement of regional disputes and for strengthening of an atmosphere of confidence among regional countries.

Meanwhile, in a joint statement released at the end of President Rafsanjani's visit, the two presidents called on belligerent parties in both Azerbaijan and Armenia to find political solutions to the interest of peace and stability in the region based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan Republic.

The two countries called for followup measures to carry out agreements reached in such fields as expansion of transportation and communication networks, oil, industries, construction, commerce, banking, and agriculture.

The joint communique also underlined respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of Tajikistan.

Meanwhile, President Rafsanjani invited Nazarbayev to visit Iran which was welcomed.

President Rafsanjani left Kazakhstan for the Republic of Azerbaijan Tuesday afternoon on the last leg of his 5-nation tour which also took him to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and, Turkmenistan.

Signs Products, Oil Agreement

LD2710084093 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Almaty, Oct. 27, IRNA—Iran will export some 20,000 tons of fireproof products to Kazakhstan annually according to an agreement signed at the end of President Rafsanjani's visit to the republic Tuesday.

On the basis of the same agreement, Iran will import two million tons of crude oil from Kazakhstan each year.

The amount of oil import by Iran would increase to five million tons per year on the basis of a time-table increase in oil production in Kazakhstan.

The two side also agreed on constant cooperation in scientific and research works as well as in transfer of know-how and establishment of joint ventures in industrial fields.

Manufacture and export of equipment needed in oil and gas related industries and mine exploitation, petrochemical industries and manufacture of tyres and, electronic and metallurgical industries are other topics of bilateral cooperation.

The agreement also envisages cooperation in light industries such as leather products, textiles, clothing and construction materials.

Nazarbayev Comments at Airport

LD2610151593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Amangeldi Akhmetalimov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty October 26 TASS—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran today ended his official visit to Kazakhstan and was seen off on the tarmac of Almaty airport by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. The Iranian president flew to Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, on an earlier unscheduled visit.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev told an impromptu press conference at the airport that he was quite pleased with the results of talks with the Iranian leader, the accords they reached and prospects for cooperation, primarily in the economic sphere.

The two countries have good potential for boosting a variety of business ties between them. This potential can be tapped and yield good fruit, the president said.

In the perspective, Iran can become one of the major importers of Kazakhstan's farm produce, Nazarbayev stressed. Turnover is already increasing along many lines, said the president.

'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani invited Nursultan Nazarbayev to pay an official visit to Iran. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

The Iranian president is expected to spend three days in Azerbaijan, where he will sign a fat package of bilateral documents with Azeri officials and hold talks with president Geydar Aliyev and other leaders of Azerbaijan. This leg to his tour of the former Soviet republic was unscheduled originally but was added when 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received a special invitation from his counterpart, Geydar Aliyev recently elected to the supreme post in this former soviet republic.

Tajikistan

CIS Commander Denies Afghan Villages Shelled

LD2610141493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe October 26 TASS—Colonel-General Boris Pyankov, commander of the CIS joint peacemaking forces in Tajikistan, has strongly denied Afghan charges that CIS troops had shelled several Afghan border villages from the territory of Tajikistan on October 16 and 17. He made this statement during a press conference here today and described the accusations as a lie and an attempt to confuse world public opinion.

Touching on the purpose of the deployment on Tajik territory of CIS joint peace-making forces, made up of Russian, Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Tajik troops, the general said that it was dictated by a desire to ensure the safety of the Tajik-Afghan border, which is at the same time a common frontier of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in the event of a large-scale external aggression and to repel it. The general stressed that the joint peace-making forces had sufficient strength and means to cope with this task. They number about 25,000 officers and men, Pyankov stated. These forces are provided with armoured equipment, up-to-date weapons and aircraft.

Touching on the duration of the joint armed forces stay on the territory of Tajikistan, the general said that the mandate issued to him indicated six months, but the term could be reduced or prolonged, depending on the socio-political situation, at the request of the tajik leadership and on agreement with the countries that have contributed their troops to the contingent.

At the same time, the commander of the CIS joint peace-making forces stressed that the socio-political situation in Tajikistan could not be stabilised by military means alone, and that the Tajik government had definite reserves to find a political settlement. Most important is the fact that it is ready to conduct a political dialogue.

Government To Toughen Measures To Disarm Militants

LD2610144893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By Tia "Khovar" correspondent Valeriy Zhukov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe October 26 TASS—It is time for us to toughen measures aimed at disarming the unlawful formations, said Tajik Deputy Prime Minister Mukhammad Said Ubaydullayev, who supervises the Tajik power ministeries.

Ubaydullayev admitted that there are unlawful armed formations in various parts of Tajikistan that continue to ignore the Tajik leadership's invitations to dissolve themselves and give up their arms without being convicted.

"We have to resort to force under the pressure from local authorities, work collectives and, after all, people as a whole, who are tired of the constant strain," Ubaydullayev emphasized.

Rakhmanov Sends Letter to UN Secretary General

LD2610150893 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, head of state and Tajik Republic Supreme Soviet chairman has sent a letter to Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general today.

In the letter, he expressed his satisfaction about the results of sincere and substantial meetings with the leaders of this influential international organization. Similarly, Imamali Rakhmanov familiarized Butrus Butrus-Ghali with the present situation in the republic, measures of the leadership on tackling difficulties—issues pertaining to the return of the refugees, and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, which has become aggravated lately as a result of senseless operations of the armed groups.

The letter expresses hope that the UN secretary general will continue his noble task of stabilizing the Tajik-Afghan border and will view the possibility of prolonging the mandate of 'Ismat Kittani, special envoy of the UN secretary general to Tajikistan.

Niyazov Marks Turkmenistan's Independence Day

LD2610142693 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan talked by phone today with Saparmurad Niyazov, the president of Turkmenistan.

Rakhmanov congratulated Niyazov and the Turkmen people on the occasion of the second anniversary of the declaration of independence of Turkmenistan and wished them success in the construction of a new life.

An agreement was achieved that a government delegation of Tajikistan headed by Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers will arrive in Turkmenistan in the near future to discuss the course of implementation of the treaty on economic cooperation between the two states. A key issue to be discussed is the delivery of fuel and lubricants to Tajikistan.

Armenia

Yerevan Reports Azerbaijani Shelling of Borders

NC2610210493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Periodic violations of the cease-fire by the Azerbaijani armed formations have taken place along the borders of Armenia's Noyemberyanskiy and Krasnoselskiy Rayons.

The Armenian Defense Ministry's press service reported that armed formations in Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy Rayon used all types of weapons to shell the defensive positions near Shavarshavan, in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon, at 1600 yesterday. The shelling continued until 2000. There are dead and injured on our side. This was the sixth hostile border incident committed by the enemy.

The situation was calm on Armenia's southern border early this morning. But at 0600, the armed formations in Zangelanskiy Rayon used all types of weapons to shell the defensive positions near Nyuvadi, in Megrinskiy Rayon. The Armenian forces retaliated. The exchange of fire ended around 1400.

Karabakh-Azerbaijani Talks on Fighting Reported

NC2610163193 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1233 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Yerevan, 26 Oct (ARMENPRES)—The situation on the Karabakh battle fronts remains extremely tense. The Karabakh side has declared a unilateral cease-fire in the southern sector of the conflict zone. However, a number of Azerbaijani Army units resumed active operations in that zone this morning. The NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] Defense Army is taking measures to neutralize these enemy formations.

The NKR Foreign Ministry reported that intensive talks are continuing with the Azerbaijani side to localize the military operations taking place in the southern sectors of the NKR.

Karabakh Officials To Meet With CSCE Group in Yerevan

NC2610201393 Yerevan SNARK in English 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Stepanakert, October 26. (SNARK)—Today the Chairman of the Karabakh Defense Committee Robert Kocharyan and the Karabakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Arkadiy Gukasyan left Stepanakert for Yerevan to participate in the meeting with the CSCE mission following the invitation of the acting head of the mission Margaretha af Ugglas. The negotiations will take place on October 27.

Azerbaijan

Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani Arrives in Baku

LD2610223393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The President of the islamic Republic of Iran started his visit to Azerbaijan Republic on Tuesday. Our correspondent has sent us a report about this visit:

[Unidentified Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of our country, arrived in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, this afternoon. [passage omitted] After the arrival of the president of our country at Baku airport, Mr. Geydar Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, welcoming Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said: I hope that your visit will be auspicious and fruitful and that our meetings and discussions will play a very important role in the expansion of relations and friendship between the two nations. He said: Since long ago, the Iranian and Azeri nations have had many common religious, historical, and cultural ties. At the moment, when the Republic of Azerbaijan is an independent country, she desires improved relations between the two countries.

Then in a short speech Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing his appreciation to the president and the people of the Azerbaijan Republic for their friendly sentiments, said: It is a very suitable time for the two countries to once again review their cooperation and their relations for a better future and for greater collaboration. He added: We should try to bring the two Islamic nations closer together than ever before and we should take steps to solve the problems which, unfortunately, the Republic of Azerbaijan is facing.

The president of our country expressed his hope that the Republic of Azerbaijan would be saved from the calamity of the unwanted war and would continue its reconstruction in peace and stability.

During the welcoming ceremonies for the Islamic President of Iran, thousand of the Muslim people of Azerbaijan Republic had gathered throughout the 25-kilometer route of the Iranian delegation from the airport to their place of residence. The groups welcoming the Iranian delegation in Baku carried portraits of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and of the esteemed leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and flags of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as placards containing Islamic texts and words of welcome to the president of our country which were written in Persian and cyrillic alphabets. The crowds expressed their warm sentiments towards their Iranian guests by waving and on many occasions by chanting salawat [Islamic verses] and with the call of Allah-o akbar [Arabic—"Allah is great"].

After arrival in the capital of Azerbaijan Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited the vast Tazepir mosque in that city and was welcomed by the massive throng of the Muslims gathering in the mosque and the surrounding streets. The crowds present in the mosque said their evening prayers were led by him. In a speech to the people of Baku who were present in Tazepir mosque, the president expressing his joy at the return of the Muslim people of Azerbaijan Republic to the embrace of the Islamic ummah and the realization of the long- standing wish of the people of that country for being saved from the yoke of communism and for achieving independence, and also expressing his thanks for the warm and enthusiastic welcome and kindness of the people of Azerbaijan Republic said: We credit Islam and the Koran for all this kindness and warm sentiments. This reveals the interest of the people of Azerbaijan Republic in Iran and the Islamic Government.

Referring to the conspiracies which were hatched after the independence of Azerbaijan Republic in order to prevent the development and reconstruction of that country, Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani said: Unfortunately, a very cruel war has been imposed upon you and your newly independent country has been subjected to aggression, a part of your country has been occupied and many of your forces and people have been martyred and made refugees. This is exactly the same as the measures which were taken by the enemies of the Islamic ummah against the order of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president of our country added: I am confident that the Republic of Azerbaijan will safeguard its territorial integrity and independence and the Muslim and brave youths of this country will not allow their country to be dismembered.

Referring to the imposition of war on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the occupation of its lands after the victory of the Islamic revolution and numerous moves in order to prevent the progress and independence of the Iranian people, the President said: Today our people are engaged in reconstruction and the aggressors are caught up in the evil consequences of their own deeds. These trials and tribulations have always existed in the history of Islam and if we can emerge successful in these tests God will support us.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: In order to attract God's bounties and to overcome their difficulties the Muslim people of Azerbaijan should support Islam and the Koran and should revive the mosques in their country.

Fighting Continues in Southwest Region

LD2610182993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The situation in the southwest of Azerbaijan, where hostilities resumed several days ago between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijani troops, remains extremely tense, the press service of the Defense Ministry of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic told Interfax.

The service said Azerbaijani forces on Tuesday morning attacked Nagorno-Karabakh positions on the border between the Kubatly and Zangelan Districts, the fighting continuing into the afternoon.

Nagorno-Karabakh's foreign ministry said meanwhile that intensive telephone contact was being maintained between the governments of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan on measures to ensure the safe evacuation of civilians from the warfare zone.

Sources in Baku said Azerbaijani civilians were being taken from the blockaded Zangelan District via Iran to the Beilagan District of Azerbaijan east of the warfare zone.

The Armenians on Monday seized a bridge across the Aras River used by Azerbaijan for transporting cargoes to Iran, from where they were taken by motor vehicles to Azerbaijan's Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

Azeri Refugees Fleeing Clashes Through Iran

LD2610192693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Video report by correspondent V. Nakhysh; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Beginning on 23 October, residents of Azerbaijan's Fizulinskiy and Zangelanskiy rayons, who were encircled and tried to break through, have been crossing the Azerbaijan-Iranian border in the area of Goradiz station. An (AIN-EKSPRESS) correspondent reports from military operations zone that the refugees are crossing into the republic's Imishlinskiy [Imishli] Rayon from the sector between the settlements of Beyuk-Bekhmenli and (Arayatli) along no-man's land. However, as of 1500 on the 24 October the Armenian side started continuously shelling the no-man's land, and the refugees had to flee the encirclement through Iranian territory. The mass migration of refugees continues. The Azeri people pins all its hopes on Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and CSCE Chairman Margaretha Af Ugglas, who arrived on official visits to Baku today. [video of distressed refugees crossing the border; Aliyev in talks with Af Ugglas]

Baku Seeks New Road Link With Nakhichevan

NC2610221393 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The occupation of Goradiz settlement due to recent developments on the battle front has meant the complete cutoff of the (Ghissa) and (Serderi) roads, which link Nakhichevan with Azerbaijan.

According to the information we obtained from Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's mission in Baku,

some 2,000 tons of grain, foodstuffs, and fuel that had been stored in Goradiz for eventual transportation to Nakhichevan have fallen into enemy hands.

Because the (Barsabad) bridge cannot be used to transport goods to the Autonomous Republic under blockade, Nakhichevan's mission is holding talks with the Iranian Embassy. If an agreement is reached, the freight will be transported through (Akhtara) bridge soon.

Karabakh Official: Azerbaijanis Break Truce

LD2610203593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Manvel Sarkisyan, aide to the Nagorno-Karabakh foreign minister, said Azerbaijan on October 21 broke the truce which was to last until November 5.

In an exclusive interview with Interfax on Tuesday, Sarkisian said the Baku leadership denied its responsibility for the resumption of warfare and claimed it was a provocation aimed at discrediting the policy of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev.

Sarkisian said Nagorno-Karabakh's decision to destroy a large Azerbaijani force deployed around the village of Goradiz was a forced measure.

Sarkisian said it was not ruled out that those developments were provoked by Azerbaijan. "We have reasons to assume that, by such provocations on the border (evacuation of Azeri refugees to Iran), Azerbaijan is doing its best to draw Tehran into the conflict. Baku apparently still hopes to expand the geography of the conflict and increase the number of parties in it," he said.

Further Comments

OW2610225293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Interview with Manvel Sarkisyan, counselor of the Nagorno-Karabakh Foreign Ministry, by Tigran Khzmalyan; place and date not given; from the "Utro" program's "Mir" interstate television company segment—recorded]

[Text] [Khzmalyan] Counselor, the events in Moscow and the war in Abkhazia have all temporarily overshadowed the hemorrhaging problem of Karabakh. Does this mean that Karabakh has found some kind of solution, even a temporary one, to its problems? What is happening in Nagorno-Karabakh at present?

[Sarkisyan] I must say that all the processes going on the territory of the former USSR appear to us to be organically linked, and today it would be naive to suppose that a final solution to the problem could be found in any of those points by themselves. Today Karabakh has been somewhat relegated to the back burner since we have been successful in achieving a certain truce there, which is being generally observed despite certain breaches. Today even Azerbaijan recognizes the existence of Karabakh as a separate military and political force. The latest meetings between the leaderships of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh corroborate this situation.

It seemed to us that for a long time no one wanted to take the new realities in this region into account, and this brought us to the point where military confrontation had literally reached such a level that it became quite difficult to resolve this argument on a regional level. Such attempts to preserve at all costs the old dogmas and the existing old ways in our region and in the whole world in general, in fact, are not as inoffensive as they seem and are the reason for the huge bloodletting in our region, as well as in other places. So, that is why it seems to us that the very first condition to make it possible to regularize these sorts of conflicts is the categorical recognition of the existing realities. We hope that there will be this understanding which will make it possible to resolve at least the first step toward establishing a firm truce.

[Khzmalyan] Counselor, in your opinion, what are the concrete ways to resolve the Karabakh problem to Karabakh's satisfaction?

[Sarkisyan] To satisfy Karabakh, first, direct contacts between the conflicting sides. Through direct contacts between Nagorno- Karabakh and Azerbaijan, we hope nevertheless to establish a truce without preconditions. We can then sit down at the negotiating table and decide the manifold issues, such as the withdrawal of troops from certain territories, the general removal of blockades, and the issue of status. That is our program, to which we are adhering.

Defense Ministry Reiterates Interest in Peace

NC2610194293 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Relative calm prevailed in the conflict zones for some time after the cease-fire agreement with the Armenians. As usual, however, the Armenian side again violated the cease-fire agreement and [word indistinct] attacked Kubatlinskiy, Zangelanskiy, and Kazakhskiy Rayons and occupied scores of settlements.

The Republic's Defense Ministry issued the following statement: At a time when more than 20 percent of the Republic's territory is under occupation, the republic's leadership expresses its readiness for the peaceful resolution of this problem and is taking steps in this direction, while the Armenian side has become brazen enough to launch a large-scale attack at the very moment Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas, the CSCE current chairman, is on an official visit to Baku. This, despite the fact that during the formal talks the Armenians also had apparently expressed their readiness for a CSCE solution to the problem.

Aliyev Mentions Possible Appeal for Foreign Military Aid

LD2610150493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Azerbaijan's President Geidar Aliyev said he did not rule out asking some foreign government for military aid.

Commenting on the situation in the country's south western areas in the aftermath of a meeting in Baku with a CSCE team he insisted that the republic might do so only if there is absolutely no other solution to its problems.

He welcomed the CSCE efforts in resolving the Armenian- Azerbaijani conflict and said that urgent steps had to be taken to have the hostilities stopped and peace negotiations started.

Foreign Minister Margaret af Ugglas of Sweden who heads the CSCE team told journalists that she wanted to see the situation in the region first hand and have consultations with the leaders of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov told INTERFAX that the republic's leaders did their best to put an end to hostilities between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces in the country's south east. He added that contacts between leaders of the warring parties were continuously maintained.

Russian Envoy on CSCE Mediation Efforts

LD2610205493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1931 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sevindzh Abdullayeva for TASS]

[Text] Baku October 26 TASS—"The sides should not frighten each other with the apocalypse of the internationalization of the Azeri-Armenian conflict. All possible measures should be taken to prevent it", Vladimir Kazimirov, Russian special envoy and head of the Russian mediatory mission for peaceful settlement in Nagorno- Karabakh, told ITAR-TASS.

Kazimirov is taking part in the work of a CSCE special delegation which arrived in Baku on Monday to study the situation in Azerbaijan.

The Russian ambassador believes that no automatic solution of the complex problem should be expected after Azerbaijan joins the CIS and a treaty on collective security. Kazimirov does not share the opinion of opponents that CSCE efforts failed to yield concrete results. Kazimirov believes that "a temporary, over 1.5 month-long ceasefire and cessation of combat operations in the conflict zone is not a bad result."

As for the latest offensive launched by Karabakh armed formations in the south-west of Azerbaijan, the ambassador came out against such actions.

On Tuesday night, the CSCE delegation, including the Russian diplomat and led by its Chairman Margaretha Af Ugglas, left for Yerevan.

CSCE Official Calls For Cease-Fire, Peace

NC2610215293 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The Swedish Foreign Minister and chairman of CSCE Margaretha af Ugglas made the following statement: I have received reports to the effect that military operations have resumed in the conflict zone. These operations give cause for deep anxiety and concern. Occupation of territories with the use of force cannot legitimize territorial claims. The military operations must be halted immediately and the troops should move back to their initial positions existing before the latest operations. I also call on the sides to extend the cease-fire and render it lasting. I call on the sides to express their adherence to the establishment of peace.

Aliyev, CSCE Official Discuss Latest Situation

NC2610220993 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Report by S. Ocakli]

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev today thanked Margaretha af Ugglas for the visit which is of great importance for us. Aliyev noted that as Swedish foreign minister and chairwoman of CSCE, she has personally witnessed the violation of the cease-fire agreement by the Armenian Republic. Aliyev also indicated that under the existing conditions, Azerbaijan feels a great need for the support of the international organizations. Visits to the Caucasus region by the representatives of the political organizations like CSCE might lead to concrete steps for the solution of a number of problems. The president said that talks have been going on with CSCE representatives recently. He specifically mentioned Mario Rafaelli's latest visit to the region. He noted that the presence of the experts groups in the conflict zone greatly helped to clarify the situation. Geydar Aliyev told the CSCE representatives that the Azerbaijani people believe that justice will eventually prevail and the high-level talks will produce concrete results.

The CSCE chairwoman Margaretha af Ugglas expressed thanks for the reception and noted that she is saddened by the fact that people were killed and injured and tens of thousands have become homeless as a result of the latest occupation of the Azerbaijani territory by the Armenian Army, and will not spare any effort for a speedy, political solution to the existing situation. She also noted that CSCE is a political organization and does not have an army, and it only works to bring about an objective resolution of the problems existing in conflict

zones, and that the organization that she chairs tries to defend the sovereignty of all republics and provides multilateral assistance to states walking down the road toward democracy. Margaretha af Ugglas said that as regards our concrete assistance, we have come here to (?implement) our proposals and provide support on concrete matters.

After the meeting, a press conference was held for domestic and foreign reporters. At the press conference, Margaretha af Ugglas pointed to the urgency of taking concrete steps for the political solution of the existing conflict.

The Azerbaijani president briefed the reporters on the results of the meetings held with the CSCE delegation, and noted that though the present visit of the CSCE delegation was yet another regular measure aimed at finding a political resolution to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, the Armenian Republic [words indistinct] does not want to chose this path and has instead chosen the path of aggression as confirmed by the latest incidents.

Comprehensive replies were given to a number of questions of interest to the reporters.

Georgia

Government Claims State Forces Capture Senaki

LD2610193293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] We are beginning the bulletin with information received from Senaki tonight.

Despite the head of state's appeal and repeated warnings, Gamsakhurdia's armed bandit units still continue the bloody confrontation, committing the most violent crimes against the nation and the people. It is clear that the ex-president's illegal units, overwhelmed by envy and enmity, will not avoid destruction and bloodshed. Government troops are forced to take appropriate measures to stop the lawlessness.

This evening the government troops captured the town of Senaki.

Details on Clashes Around Senaki

LD2610220493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The armed confrontation in western Georgia is continuing. Some experts believe that it is entering its final stages. Government troops are continuing their offensive. Fierce fighting has broken out on the outskirts of the town of Senaki. Supporters of the ex-president are putting up stubborn resistance. Here are the details from Nikolay Mamulashvili.

[Mamulashvili] Events in the region have developed like this. Since the morning of 26 October, government troops began advancing on Senaki. I would remind you that this town, and also the town of Zugdidi, are the last bastion of the armed supporters of the ex- president, and so the Zviadists have concentrated all their forces, including heavy equipment, in precisely this area, organizing an in- depth defense.

Certain agencies and mass media were clearly too hasty in circulating information on 26 October, reporting that by 1600 local time, Georgian Government troops had taken control of Senaki. The fight for this town really got under way during the afternoon of 26 October, and by 1600 it was going on in the suburbs. But the advance by Army units was held up, because the ex-president's supporters had mined the approaches to the town in several areas. According to information, at 1900 on 26 October, fighting was still going on, and there are fatalities on both sides—their number is being clarified.

I was told this in a telephone conversation on the evening of 26 October from the town of Samtredia, by head of the press center of the Georgian Interior Ministry Colonel Valeryan Gogolashvili. Incidentally, he also said that police units that had entered the region were conducting active operations against gangs and looters. During the last 24 hours alone, Gogolashvili said, the police have confiscated about 30 sub-machine guns, grenade launchers, machine guns, and even one armored personnel carrier. The police's main job, the colonel said, was to restore normal operations of law-enforcement bodies in the region, because the Interior Ministry's system in western Georgia, according to the press center chief, was totally destroyed by the Zviadists.

Railway Operations Restored

LD2710100293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Major Soso Margishvili, the head of the Defense Ministry press center, told the KONTAKT news agency at 1100 today that at 1830 yesterday, 26 October, government troops—which included the Defense Ministry 11th and 12th brigades, the Cholokashvili regiment, and Gori armed police—fought their way into Senaki and took control of the town. Several pieces of the opposing side's heavy equipment were destroyed in the fighting. The opposing side also suffered damage of a different sort [as heard] and was forced to retreat toward Zugdidi. Mopping-up operations against remaining gangs are now under way.

The head of state's press secretariat reports that, after the capture of Senaki by the government troops, repair workers were restoring the railway during the night. The railway section between Senaki and Samtredia has been restored. Two trainloads of grain for Armenia left for Yerevan today. Azerbaijan will also be receiving its goods without restriction.

Samtredia Gradually Returning To Normal

LD2610133293 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Life in Samtredia is gradually returning to normal. All measures have been taken to restore stability in the city. All entry points to the city are under control. Mobile groups have been set up and police are checking road transport. Large quantities of weapons and ammunition have been confiscated. The city has a steady supply of bread. There is water and electricity. Work is under way to restore trolley-bus cable lines damaged in fighting. The damage inflicted on the city by the fighting is being determined.

Damage Reported in Khoni After Zviadists Retreat

LD2610180293 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Talking with a CONTACT NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Khoni Governor Gizo Kukhalashvili said that after the illegal armed units supporting Gamsakhurdia pulled back, it emerged that local enterprises and offices had been completely looted and that raw materials, state and privately owned cars and trucks, fuel, as well as winter flour reserves for mountain villages had been stolen. The local administration building was pillaged. Refrigerators, televisions, and even telephones were taken away. In short, everything they laid their hands on was taken away. To date, there are 84 families registered in the rayon, who have been robbed of all their possessions by gangs supporting Gamsakhurdia.

As is known, a curfew has been introduced in the rayon. Interior troops officials have arrived to restore order.

A most unfortunate thing happened yesterday. Two civilians crossing a bridge near the village of Lekhaindravo [in Martvili rayon] were blown up by a mine planted by Gamsakhurdia supporters. Retreating illegal units bombed the village of Matkhoji [Khoni rayon], destroying 15 residential houses. [passage omitted]

The governor also pointed out that work is underway to clear the rayon of individual groups of looters.

Abkhaz Commission To Assist Return of Refugees

LD2610132493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1120 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Zurab Argun]

[Text] Sukhumi October 26 TASS—The Abkhazian government ordered the setting up of a commission to return the refugees who "did not take part in hostilities against the people of Abkhazia and its legitimate bodies of power".

The first stage is expected to bring back Russian-speaking citizens of Abkhazia forcibly displaced by Georgian authorities. The commission will then consider the possibility of bringing back ethnic Georgians who earlier resided in Abkhazia but did not take part in combat activities on the part of the Georgian government forces and fled their homes in fear of hostilities.

The Council of Ministers of Abkhazia informed citizens wishing to return to Abkhazian territory that provisions have already been made to ensure sustenance and support life in the republic.

Shevardnadze Letter to Clinton on Russian Ties

LD2610152093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi October 26 TASS—A message of Georgian state head Eduard Shevardnadze to U.S. President Bill Clinton positively estimated the current state of the Georgian-Russian relations.

"I am glad to say there are gleams of hope thanks to Georgia's support by the Russian leadership and the president. I would like to believe this is not an episode but the beginning of fully-fledged Georgian-Russian cooperation free from policy of double standard. This policy was caused by the instability of Russian internal political situation," says the message.

Shevardnadze praised support President Clinton is rendering to his Russian counterpart as a guarantee of order and stability in new independent states formed on territory of the former Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze Appoints New Military, Press Center Chiefs

LD2610224993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 2050 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] By decree of the Georgian Head of State:

1. Zaza Kandelaki has been appointed the head of the press center of the Head of State's administration;

2. The general staff of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Georgia has been changed to the main staff of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Georgia;

3. Major-General Guram Nikolaishvili has been appointed the chief of main staff of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Georgia.

Russian General on Resolving Illegal Arms Transfers

NC2610165393 Yerevan SNARK in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tbilisi, October 26. (SNARK). "If Georgia as a member of the CIS enters the military-political unit of the Commonwealth, the problem connected with the supplementary transfer of the Russian arms to Georgia will be finally settled on the level of the both states

presidents," Major-General Boris Dukov, deputy head of the Group of Russian Forces in Transcaucasia, told SNARK. He is of the opinion that the CIS members should express their opinion on the point.

The Russian side has already transferred the arms in the quantity mentioned by the 1992 Tashkent quotas, even more than it was mentioned taking into account the loss Georgia suffered with during the period of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

The problem of the 35th regiment redistribution from Kutaisi to Batumi should be done following the agreement between Eduard Shevardnadze and the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev on creation of the three garrisons on the territory of Georgia in Tbilisi, Akhalkalaki and Batumi.

Boris Dukov said that the process is going on but it hasn't yet come to an end. It's a great and difficult work because the point is not only people redistribution but also the material means. As soon as the problem is being settled the Russian troops will leave Kutaisi.

Russian Officer on Guarding Railway Lines

LD2610183793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1605 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Colonel Gennadiy (Dolgachev), the head of the press center of the Transcaucasian Group of Russian Armed Forces [TGRAF], reported that plans had been drawn for joint actions to be taken by Russia and the Transcaucasian republics on guarding railway routes and equipment in Transcaucasia.

According to the plan, Armenian forces are to be in action at the Poti-Kutaisi section, the TGRAF troops will monitor the section from Kutaisi to Tbilisi and the Azerbaijan Army—from Tbilisi eastward. At each of these sections bridges and tunnels should be guarded permanently and the route itself by mobile groups.

However, according to (Dolgachev), Azerbaijan has refused to take part in the act, referring to disorganization in its Army. Armenia, which, according to Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze, has assigned 900 men, nevertheless, has declared several times that it cannot go armed against its brothers.

In accordance with Boris Yeltsin's instruction, TGRAF as a general supervisor, will be financed to carry out this action but no order to launch the action has been received yet.

Gennadiy (Dolgachev) denied reports that the TGRAF handed over T-72 tanks and other military equipment to [Georgian] government troops in western Georgia. He flatly stated that Russia has not handed over combat equipment to Georgia since September 1992, even though it has not met the quota stipulated by the Tashkent Agreement.

The colonel explained the arrival of military transport aircraft at Vaziani air force airport near Tbilisi by the redeployment of a communications brigade from Transcaucasia.

Explosion Reported at Opposition Party's HQ

LD2610221693 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] According to the Georgian Security Ministry, an explosion was reported at the headquarters of the Union of Traditionalists of Georgia [party in opposition to Shevardnadze, its leader was the chairman of Gamsakhurdia's Supreme Council] today, at about 1630. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

The Security Ministry feels confident that this action, no matter who carried it out, is directed toward the aggravation of the sociopolitical situation in the country.

Security Minister Discusses Ministry's Plans

LD2610214093 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Georgian Security Minister Igor Giorgadze told a CONTACT correspondent that the service under his supervision, apart from intelligence and local operative measures, will be engaged in the fight against banditry, illegal armed units, and economic crime jointly with other law-enforcement bodies. The head of Georgia's intelligence service believes that in the current situation the Security Ministry has to be in possession, not only of the means for acquiring information, but also the capability of utilizing it. A combination of intelligence and power structures [a term recently introduced from Russian; it incorporates security, police, and army] will yield more appreciable results.

Estonia

Laar Protests BNS Report on Fatherland Meeting

LD2610151693 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar sent a letter to the Council of the Published Word today requesting a discussion of the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE's [BNS] reporting on the ruling Fatherland faction's meeting on 21 October.

As is known, a Fatherland faction member, who wishes to remain anonymous, told BNS after the meeting that Prime Minister Mart Laar had called for powers to dismiss Defense Minister Juri Luik and Justice Minister Kaido Kama. The part of the news to do with Juri Luik has turned out to be untrue. Although Laar has denied that he demanded Kaido Kama's dismissal, several Fatherland deputies have later confirmed that the opposite is true.

The BNS says that it is ready to apologize to Prime Minister Mart Laar and Defense Minister Juri Luik if some of its reporting really was untrue. The BNS finds that in that case, the deputy who had provided the original information has made either a deliberate or an accidental mistake. The BNS emphasizes also that as soon as information was received from the government press representative, Ain Saarna, it was released immediately [word indistinct].

Two Parliament Factions Elect New Leaders

WS2610150693 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 2019 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Tallinn, October 25—Estonia's Riigikogu [parliament] at its session on Monday [25 October] registered new boards of its two factions.

Toivo Jullinen became head of the Moderates' faction while Eiki Nestor became its deputy head.

Tnu-Rein Kukk was registered as head of the Coalition Party faction while its former head, Peeter Lorents, became deputy head, Riigikogu's press office informed.

"Peeter Lorents is also the deputy head of Riigikogu's state defence commission which will soon hold re-elections and Lorents will become new chairman of the commission," Kukk said while adding that Lorents had considered holding two top jobs impossible.

Kukk also said that local elections had changed Estonia's political landscape and the Coalition party did not intend to put up with being an opposition, but wanted to have a bigger say in drafting bills.